PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

to the
Resolutions of the 2012
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Convention

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
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Table of Contents

A1 RENEWAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROGRAMS 7

A2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN REVIEW OF MUNICIPAL TAXATION 8

A4 POLICING IN REMOTE RURAL TOWNS & VILLAGES 9

A6 MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICES ALARM CALLS COST RECOVERY 10

A8 OIL TANKER TRAFFIC 11

B1 RURAL POLICING POLICIES 12

B2 PROVINCIAL JUDICIAL RESOURCES 13

B3 FRASER GRAVEL MANAGEMENT 15

B4 FLOOD MITIGATION FUNDING 16

B5 AMBULANCE ASSISTS & ACCIDENT CALLOUTS 17

B6 COASTAL FERRY ACT REVIEW 18

B7 DELIVERY OF PROPERTY TAX NOTICES BY EMAIL 20

B8 EXPERT PANEL REVIEW OF BUSINESS TAXATION 21

B9 CAPITAL COSTS OF FIRE SUPPRESSION 22

B10 GENERATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS 23

B11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS 24

B12 SUPPORT FOR PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROGRAMS 26

B13 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING CRITERIA 27

B14 FLOOD PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE 28

B15 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LICENSING – HEAVY INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC 29

B16 FUNDING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS 31

B17 USE OF RESERVE FUNDS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT 32

B18 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX 34

B19 ROAD REHABILITATION & ASSOCIATED FUNDING 35

B20 REVENUE SHARING 36

B21 BC CONSERVATION SERVICE CAPACITY 37

B22 FUNDING FOR BC CONSERVATION SERVICE 39

B23 REMOVAL OF DERELICT & ABANDONED VESSELS FROM COASTAL WATERS 40

B24 INCREASED FUNDING & RESOURCES FOR STREAM PROTECTION 41

B25 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS FOR HOMEOWNERS 42
B26 BROWNFIELDS 44
B27 MILK CONTAINERS 45
B28 EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY 47
B29 ILLEGAL DUMPING ENFORCEMENT 49
B30 AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING 50
B31 USE OF RECLAIMED WATER 51
B32 STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS 52
B33 RAW LOG EXPORTS 53
B34 FARM MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS 55
B35 BUY BC 56
B36 POWERLINE IMPROVEMENTS 57
B37 SCHOOL BASED YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 58
B38 MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL BC 60
B39 PALLIATIVE CARE IN BC 61
B40 COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FOR SENIORS 64
B41 FUNDING FOR ENHANCED SENIORS' OUTREACH & PREVENTATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS 67
B42 MSP PREMIUMS FOR SENIORS 70
B43 HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 71
B44 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING IN RURAL & REMOTE COMMUNITIES 72
B45 CELLULAR SERVICE 73
B46 MECHANICAL INSULATION 74
B47 RENEWAL OF PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROGRAMS 75
B48 REGULATION OF PUBLIC WATER SERVICES 76
B50 BC CHILDCARE PLAN 77
B52 BC BUILDING CODE 78
B53 REQUIREMENTS TO EXEMPT NECESSARY WATER WORKS PROJECTS FROM ELECTOR APPROVAL 79
B54 SERVICES OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITY 81
B55 RESORT MUNICIPALITIES 82
B56 EQUITY IN FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES 83
B57 RESPONDING SAFELY TO HOARDING 84
B59 AUTHORITY TO REMOVE GANG MEMBERS FROM LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS 85

B60 911 POCKET CALLS 86
B61 STREAMFLOW DATA FROM INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS 87
B62 FLOOD MITIGATION APPROVAL 88
B63 PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE 90
B64 UPGRADES TO COMMUNITY AIRSTRIPS 92
B65 LONG TERM TRANSLINK FUNDING MODEL 93
B66 TAXABLE OCCUPIERS OF HOSPITALS 94
B67 CELL SERVICE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES 95
B68 BC HYDRO GRANT IN LIEU OF TAXES 96
B69 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING 97
B71 REINSTATEMENT OF DEDICATED LINE ITEM LIBRARY FUNDING IN BC 98
B72 WILDLIFE CONFLICT 99
B73 QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS 101
B74 EXTERIOR FULL CUT-OFF LIGHTING 102
B75 TSUNAMI DEBRIS TO HIT WEST COAST IN 2014 103
B76 BLUE CARBON CREDITS 105
B77 PROTECTION OF POTABLE WATER 106
B78 REGULATION OF ABANDONED BOATS & DERELICT STRUCTURES ALONG PUBLIC WATERWAYS 107
B79 ENABLING FISH ACCESS TO HISTORICAL SPAWNING GROUNDS AT BC HYDRO DAMS 108
B81 DISPOSAL OF GYPSUM CONTAINING ASBESTOS 110
B82 AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION FILL APPLICATION 111
B83 AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION POLICY NO. 11 113
B84 FENCING ADJACENT TO HIGHWAYS 114
B85 FIVE YEAR STRATEGY FOR BC NATURAL GAS USE 116
B86 THREE PHASE POWER 117
B87 CANADA EUROPEAN UNION TRADE AGREEMENT 118
B88 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC & TRADE AGREEMENT 119
B89 DECLARED NUISANCES 120
B90 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN ELECTORAL AREAS 121
B91 DOCTOR SHORTAGE IN BC 122
B92 SMOKE FREE OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES 124
B93 DECLINING HEALTH SERVICES 125

B94 COLD WEATHER FUNDING 127
B95 ON-SITE PROVINCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY RURAL COMMUNITIES 128
B96 FUNDING FOR NORTHERN COLLEGES 129
B98 AMENDMENTS TO THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCY ACT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS 130
B99 PUBLIC LAKESHORE ACCESS 131
B100 ACCESSIBLE BALLOT PROGRAM 132
B102 COMMUNITY WATER SERVICING 133
B103 ASSESSING COMMUNITIES FOR PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT 134
B104 OFFICE OF THE SENIORS ADVOCATE 135
B105 REINSTATEMENT OF FARM FUNDING FOR DEER FENCING 136
B106 FENCING OF AGRICULTURAL INTERFACE 137
B108 INNOVATE BC'S NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK 138
B109 INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE PLANNING GUIDELINES 139
B110 FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION 140
B112 STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVE FUNDING 142
B113 FULL FUNDING FOR FUEL ABATEMENT 143
B114 FUNDING FOREST FUEL MITIGATION 144
B115 PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY 145
B118 WATER STEWARDSHIP 146
B119 COMMERCIALIZATION OF WATER 147
B120 CONTAMINATED SOIL RELOCATION 148
B121 2012 CARBON NEUTRAL GOALS 149
B122 SHIPPING OF DANGEROUS GOODS LIABILITIES 150
B123 REGULATING THE SALE OF UNSTERILIZED RABBITS 152
B124 WILDLIFE TRAPPING 153
B125 BC STEWARDSHIP REGULATIONS RELATING TO PACKAGING & PRINTED PAPER 154
B126 GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FREE ZONES 156
B128 TAX COLLECTION LEGISLATION 157
B130 VACANT & DERELICT BUILDING TAX RATE 158
B132 SMALL COMMUNITY GRANT 159
B139 RURAL TOURISM ASSESSMENTS 160
B143 MARKET RENTAL HOUSING STOCK 161

B145 BUILDING REGULATIONS – NON-POTABLE WATER 162
B147 PROVINCIAL REMEDIATION PROCESS FOR INAPPROPRIATELY USED BUILDINGS 163
B148 WORKPLACE SAFETY AWARENESS 164
B154 SHARK FIN HARVESTING 165
B156 SIGNAGE & SAFE PULL-OUTS FOR HIGHWAY AREAS WITH CELL PHONE COVERAGE 166
SR1 SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH FIRST NATIONS & REGULATORY GAP 167
OF1 HIGHWAY OF TEARS SHUTTLE BUS PROPOSAL 169
LR1 CALL ANSWER LEVY FOR WIRELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS 170
LR2 INVASIVE SPECIES – QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSELS 171
LR3 SMALL WATER SYSTEMS TREATMENT 173
LR6 REQUIREMENTS FOR BY-ELECTION 175

A1 RENEWAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS the Building Canada plan will expire in 2014, federal Gas Tax Agreements expire in 2015, and the federal government is now consulting on a Long Term Infrastructure Plan meant to inform both the next federal/provincial infrastructure program and the permanent Gas Tax Fund;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of federal and provincial funding should be to provide communities in British Columbia with a source of stable, predictable and long-term funding to help them address their infrastructure needs and meet sustainability objectives;

THEREFORE be it resolved that UBCM negotiate a wider range of eligible projects, under a new federal/provincial infrastructure funding program and the permanent Gas Tax Fund program, to include all infrastructure projects deemed to be a local priority.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Currently, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, is consulting with the federal government on the development of a long-term infrastructure program. These consultations also include the continuation of the federal Gas Tax Agreement.

The Province is requesting that the federal government provide communities in British Columbia with a source of stable, predictable and long-term funding to help them address their infrastructure needs and meet sustainability objectives. The Province also is in support of a program that supports provincial, regional and local priorities.

The Province recognizes that local governments are in the best position to identify local priorities and it is expected that within the overall program envelope, local government funding will include various categories that will address regional and local priorities.

A2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN REVIEW OF MUNICIPAL TAXATION

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is undertaking a Local Government Revenue Sources Review and a Business Taxation Review, both of which have a significant relationship to the local government tax structure and the ability of local governments to provide quality and comprehensive services to their citizens;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* (Sections 276 and 277) lays out a framework for meaningful consultation and negotiation between the Province and the Union of BC Municipalities, as the voice for local government in BC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide a significant opportunity and role for the participation of the UBCM and BC local governments in the Local Government Revenue Sources Review and a Business Taxation Review, in the assessment of any arising results and recommendations, and in seeking local government consent for any future implementation of the finding of these review processes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Minister of Finance appointed an Expert Panel on Business Taxation, which was tasked with generating ideas and providing recommendations for a business taxation system that balances the principles of competitiveness, fairness and simplicity.

The review included an examination of municipal property taxation of business and its impact on business competitiveness and investment. The guidelines for the Panel stated that recommendations must address issues of affordability and sustainability for local governments within the framework of the *Community Charter*.

Interested individuals and organizations, including UBCM and local governments, were able to make submissions to the Panel for consideration as part of this review.

In accordance with the *Community Charter*, the relationship between local governments and the Province is built on the principle that consultation is needed on matters of mutual interest.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The work of the Municipal Revenue Sources Review has been completed. This was primarily an information gathering exercise and did not make any recommendations. The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (Ministry) reviewed the information gathered during the review and shared it with UBCM. In keeping with the framework for consultation, the Ministry will discuss possible outcomes and objectives that may follow from the research with UBCM.

A4 POLICING IN REMOTE RURAL TOWNS & VILLAGES

WHEREAS resident policing is a core community value in rural towns and villages;

AND WHEREAS a number of the more remote communities in British Columbia stand to lose their resident policing due to the RCMP's requirement to meet the Canadian Labour Standards regarding working alone:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to provide the necessary funding to allow the RCMP to fulfill their obligation to their members under the Canadian Labour Standards and maintain a resident police presence in remote rural towns and villages.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Province recognizes that resident policing is a core community value in rural towns and villages across BC.

As both officer and public safety are paramount, the RCMP has been examining service delivery models to ensure that legislative requirements, as well as community needs, are met. All proposed service delivery models still envisage an appropriate police presence in remote rural towns and villages. Given the fluid nature of policing, the RCMP, in conjunction with the provincial government, monitor and review existing resources to ensure resources are strategically deployed to prevent and reduce crime in BC communities.

A6 MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICES ALARM CALLS COST RECOVERY

WHEREAS the number of First Responder or Medical Emergency Service Alarm (MESA) calls that the City of Langley respond to represents 75 percent of all calls received by the Langley City Fire Rescue Service (LCFRS);

AND WHEREAS the City of Langley and other local governments incur significant direct costs as a result of responding to MESA calls to compliment the services provided by BC Ambulance Service (BCAS);

AND WHEREAS the intermediate patient care provided by first responders can greatly enhance patient outcomes and significantly reduce short term and long term costs to the overall health care system and the City of Langley acknowledges the community will benefit from the LCFRS supporting BCAS to provide first responder services to the patient while the ambulance is on route:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC work with UBCM to develop a fair and equitable cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to Medical Emergency Service Alarm calls.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Provision of pre-hospital emergency health services in BC is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Emergency & Health Services Commission (EHSC). Municipal First Responder agencies may choose to supplement the EHSC in the provision of pre-hospital care provided the municipalities have the consent of the EHSC.

There is no requirement that municipal First Responder agencies (including the Langley City Fire Rescue Service) respond to medical emergencies. Participation in the First Responder program is voluntary and each municipality determines the extent of their participation in this program.

The Province will not develop a cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to medical emergencies. All First Responder program participants (including the City of Langley) already possess the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in the First Responder program.

The Province values the role that First Responders play in pre-hospital emergency care. Municipalities that volunteer to participate in the First Responder program can reduce the volume of calls they respond to by choosing to respond only to serious medical emergencies as defined by the BC Ambulance Service Resource Allocation Plan (RAP) that has been developed with input from fire personnel.

A8 OIL TANKER TRAFFIC

WHEREAS a crude oil spill would have devastating and long lasting effects on British Columbia's unique and diverse coast, which provides critical marine habitat and marine resources that sustain the social, cultural, environmental and economic health of coastal and First Nations communities;

AND WHEREAS citizens of British Columbia, particularly those living in coastal communities, and First Nations communities and environmental groups have expressed well-founded concerns over the expansion of oil pipelines and oil tankers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM oppose projects that would lead to the expansion of oil tanker traffic through BC's coastal waters;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Premier of British Columbia, the Leader of the Official Opposition and members of the Legislative Assembly to use whatever legislative and administrative means that are available to stop the expansion of oil tanker traffic through BC's coastal waters.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

British Columbia recognizes increased risk to the environment posed by an increase in tanker traffic linked to approval of pipelines transporting Alberta bitumen to the coast.

British Columbia has publicly released its technical analysis "Requirements for British Columbia to Consider Support for Heavy Oil Pipelines." Within that analysis, BC outlines five conditions for formal support. These include: 1. Joint Review Panel Approval; 2. World Class Coastal Protection Regime; 3. Terrestrial Protection and Spill Prevention; 4. Appropriate Aboriginal Engagement, Participation and Accommodation; and 5. Improved Fiscal Benefits to British Columbia.

A key condition requires world leading marine spill preparedness and response systems for British Columbia. Within that requirement, there are 11 recommendations the Province sees as necessary to bring British Columbia to that standard.

In order for there to be any possibility of heavy oil projects receiving the support of the Province, each of the five principles must be satisfactorily addressed in advance of formal support being considered by British Columbia.

B1 RURAL POLICING POLICIES

WHEREAS it is generally recognized that police work in BC is heavily urban focused; however increasing the number of general duty municipal officers should not come at the expense of a reasonable level of police service in rural communities;

AND WHEREAS there has been little or no increase in the number of provincially funded general duty officers over the past several years, compromising police service levels in many rural communities throughout BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of BC review its rural police resourcing models to ensure that adequate resources are available to properly police rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The RCMP has been conducting a Rural Policing Study looking at police service delivery models to ensure compliance with the Canada Labour Code.

As resource demands vary between jurisdictions from year to year, the RCMP is constantly monitoring resources to ensure adequate and effective policing across the Province. Decisions about provincial resource allocation are based on a number of factors, such as crime rates and patterns, population size, geography and economic circumstances. Given the fluid nature of policing, the RCMP, in conjunction with the Provincial Government, consistently monitors and reviews existing resources and redeploys accordingly in order to prevent and reduce crime in BC communities.

B2 PROVINCIAL JUDICIAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS Section 49(10) of the *Community Charter* provides the authority, if there is reasonable grounds to believe that a dog is a dangerous dog, for a local government to apply to the Provincial Court for an order for that dog be destroyed;

AND WHEREAS prior to 2009 the Ministry of Attorney General Crown Counsel office prosecuted bylaw matters or dangerous dog offenses under the Community Charter;

AND WHEREAS since that time future prosecutions of this nature are no longer handled by Crown Counsel resulting in increased costs to the local government, delay in court trials often over a year, and therefore longer confinement of dangerous dogs at local government expense;

AND WHEREAS it is believed there is a shortage of Crown Counsel and provincial court judges which contribute to this delay:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide more resources to expedite prosecution of local government bylaws, particularly those dealing with dangerous dogs, or consider a different judicial method to prosecute such cases.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Provincial Government ceased providing bylaw prosecution services to municipalities on April 1, 1997. Since then, municipalities have been prosecuting their own bylaws.

Criminal Justice Branch policy "MUN 1" authorizes municipal lawyers to conduct bylaw offence prosecutions. However, the Criminal Justice Branch continues to play a supervisory role, which includes the authority to intervene or assist in the public interest.

Municipal lawyers may have a more immediate appreciation of the development and enforcement of local bylaws regulating matters such as business operations, property development, parking and animal control.

Municipal bylaw prosecutions occur within the criminal justice system along with other types of prosecutions, including those under the Criminal Code and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, as well as provincial statutes.

In the past two years, the Government has appointed 23 judges to locations across the Province. The most recent Justice Delayed Report of the Provincial Court indicates there has been a reduction in delays for trials. Any appointments of new judges will be made within the context of the Province's overall strategy for justice reform.

In 2004 the Province implemented the Bylaw Dispute Adjudication System, which allows local governments to hear bylaw disputes without taking them to court. Local governments using this system have found a reduction in: the number of disputed tickets, costs associated with bylaw officer court attendance and the time from ticket issuance to ticket disposition; as well as an improvement in fine payments. Over 50 local governments are currently using or in the process of developing a bylaw dispute adjudication system.

B3 FRASER GRAVEL MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS gravel and sediment removal in the Fraser River has been the subject of UBCM resolutions in 2004 (B18), 2005 (B26) and 2006 (B19) and that gravel removal has occurred under the management of the provincial government from 2005 to 2010;

AND WHEREAS there was no gravel removed in 2011 and there is not expected to be any gravel removed in 2012:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government develop a long term funding mechanism to ensure that the gravel removal program is adequately funded including the studies required to ensure the integrity of the program.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The provincial government recognizes sediment removal as an important component of an integrated flood mitigation strategy. Planning and consultation for a 2013 sediment removal site will be completed by February 2013 to remove sediment from a site in the Fraser Gravel Reach based on the highest hydraulic benefit and minimum adverse impacts. In addition to the removal of sediment in 2013, the Province, through Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is working with provincial and federal partners (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Transport Canada) to develop a long term gravel removal strategy for the Fraser Gravel Reach. The development of the long term plan will include opportunities for input and consultation from stakeholders. The long term strategy will provide consistent, predictable plans to manage the build-up of the river bed that occurs through the natural deposition of sediment material.

B4 FLOOD MITIGATION FUNDING

WHEREAS recent changes to flood protection design standards have been introduced by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operation regarding sea level rise and storm surge as well as seismic stability, which significantly increase the cost of flood mitigation works;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Flood Protection Program was already insufficient to fund the necessary flood mitigation works prior to the introduction of the new standards, as proven by the fact that approximately $390 million in senior government funding assistance had been applied for by communities since 2007, compared to total available funds of $150 million for the period 2007 through2016;

AND WHEREAS flood mitigation works can have benefit cost ratios of over 20:1 and are urgently needed to protect public safety and reduce potential impacts to the economy and environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC and the Government of Canada to extend the timeline beyond 2016 and increase the amount of Flood Protection Program funds available to allow completion of necessary flood mitigation works in a timely manner;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to allow phased flood mitigation upgrades with the first priority being the accomplishment of upgrades to address hydraulic performance, followed by upgrades to achieve seismic performance.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Province recognizes the value of flood mitigation and since 2008 has been partnering with the Federal Government to provide funding to local governments. In recognition of the complexities and environmental constraints associated with the building of flood mitigation works, the Flood Protection Program moved to a multi-year funding process. While the program end date has not been extended, the Province has been in consultation with the Federal Government to develop a dedicated Disaster Mitigation Program. The Province is actively participating with all other provinces and territories in the development of a new National Disaster Mitigation Program. Confirmation of the program has not yet been determined.

Changes to seismic standards for diking infrastructure were introduced by the Inspector of Dikes (Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) in 2011. The new standards are incorporated into new dike designs and the Inspector of Dikes is working with all local governments to ensure that incorporation of seismic standards is implemented in the most cost efficient and effective manner.

B5 AMBULANCE ASSISTS & ACCIDENT CALLOUTS

WHEREAS the local fire departments of smaller municipalities, that depend wholly on volunteers for providing fire protection services, are being faced with escalating demands for their involvement with onerous and difficult ambulance assists and accident callouts;

AND WHEREAS this is proving not only financially burdensome to small municipalities which negatively impacts the ability of volunteer fire departments to provide efficient and good fire protection services for their residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be petitioned to mandate that BC Ambulance Service and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia reimburse municipalities for services rendered on their behalf by volunteer or paid fire departments on the same basis as recoveries being currently made from BC Forest Services.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

After the onset of the world financial crisis in 2008, provincial revenues deteriorated significantly and created a significant operating deficit after several years of budget surpluses. In Budget 2009 (September Update), the Government presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14. We are still following this plan, and it has meant making very difficult fiscal decisions.

By restraining spending as we have, we are managing to keep income taxes among the lowest in Canada and have preserved our AAA credit rating, allowing us to pay lower interest rates on the funds we do borrow, which in turn help to hold the line on taxation.

In Budget 2012, we projected a very modest $154 million surplus for 2013/14. On a budget of over $44 billion annually, this is a thin margin. With the current economic situation in Europe and elsewhere, achieving this target continues to be a challenge.

As a result, at this time, Government is not considering any new reimbursement programs, but certainly recognizes the fiscal issues being faced by local governments. Therefore, we continue to encourage you to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and other ministries as appropriate.

B6 COASTAL FERRY ACT REVIEW

WHEREAS UBCM has resolved to lobby the provincial government to:

a. recognize our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and provide the independent BC Ferry Commission with a mandate to provide comprehensive recommendations aimed at creating equity between our terrestrial and marine highways; and
b. ensure that BC Ferry fares are reduced and current service levels are maintained at current levels until such time as the provincial government implements legislation that recognizes our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and creates equity between BC's terrestrial and marine highway systems;

AND WHEREAS the BC Ferry Commissioner's 2012 report on the *Coastal Ferry Act* contains recommendations that are inconsistent with UBCM policy, as described above, including:

a. The Commissioner's 11th recommendation, which calls for a price cap at the rate of inflation. As ferry fares are already well past the tipping point of affordability, if implemented, this recommendation would not create equity between our terrestrial and marine highways and would instead ensure that fares remained unaffordable in perpetuity; and
b. The Commissioner's 9th and 16th recommendations which, if implemented, would give the Commissioner the mandate to reduce core ferry service levels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UCBM insist that the Government of BC rejects any recommendations, and abandons any plans, to increase ferry fares and/or reduce core ferry service levels, as such actions would have irreparable negative impacts on the economic wellbeing of Coastal British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM continue to lobby the Government of BC to implement legislation that recognizes our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and creates equity between BC's terrestrial and marine highway systems.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province recognizes that ferries are part of our provincial transportation network and are important to many British Columbians. We have a world class ferry system in British Columbia and we are going to work together to ensure we also have a financially-sustainable and affordable ferry service for the long-term.

To achieve this end, taxpayers, users and the ferry operator need to work together to find ways to link coastal communities affordably and efficiently. This is why the Province committed to a community engagement process.

It is not easy in these tough economic times for government to increase its support for coastal ferry services. However, this Government has found $79.5 million over four years to reduce the pressure on fares. We have also asked BC Ferries to increase its operational efficiencies - $15 million over four years.

BC taxpayers, regardless of where they live, are expected to contribute more than $180 million this year to support coastal ferry services.

B7 DELIVERY OF PROPERTY TAX NOTICES BY EMAIL

WHEREAS s. 237 of the *Community Charter* requires municipalities to mail the annual tax notice in a hardcopy format to each property owner at the address shown on the assessment roll;

AND WHEREAS it is more efficient, economical and beneficial to the environment to deliver tax notices by email rather than regular mail:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to amend the *Community Charter* to permit tax notices to be delivered by email where so requested by the property owner.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Government is interested in supporting local governments seeking to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and respond to citizens' interest in doing more business electronically. That could include facilitating electronic delivery of property tax notices.

Ministry staff have been undertaking work on this issue, to identify the types of legislative change that would be required if Government were to proceed to enable property tax notices to be delivered electronically as an alternative to traditional mail. That includes considering matters such as security of delivery, consent of recipients and technological capacity.

Work to date has also included discussions with staff from UBCM, Local Government Management Association and Government Finance Officers' Association, as well as a survey of all municipal corporate officers.

B8 EXPERT PANEL REVIEW OF BUSINESS TAXATION

WHEREAS municipalities currently have the autonomy and right to set business taxes;

AND WHEREAS residential home owners are being subjected to increased tax burdens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM oppose any recommendations that would take away the current taxing authorities from local government.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Minister of Finance appointed an Expert Panel on Business Taxation, which was tasked with generating ideas and providing recommendations for a business taxation system that balances the principles of competitiveness, fairness and simplicity.

The review included an examination of municipal property taxation of business and its impact on business competitiveness and investment. The guidelines for the Panel stated that recommendations must address issues of affordability and sustainability for local governments within the framework of the *Community Charter*.

Interested individuals and organizations, including UBCM and local governments, were able to make submissions to the Panel for consideration as part of this review.

In accordance with the *Community Charter*, the relationship between local governments and the Province is built on the principle that consultation is needed on matters of mutual interest.

B9 CAPITAL COSTS OF FIRE SUPPRESSION

WHEREAS development can result in capital funding burdens for local governments for purposes other than sewage, water, drainage, highway facilities and parkland;

AND WHEREAS a number of resolutions have been previously endorsed by UBCM members requesting that the use of development cost charges be expanded to include costs related to increased demand on protective, cultural and recreation services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development be urged to reconsider their position and amend section 933 of the *Local Government Act* to allow development cost charges to be imposed to assist local governments in funding the capital costs of fire halls and fire suppression equipment and other purposes deemed appropriate by the local government that are required as a result of increased development.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The suggestion that Development Cost Charges (DCC) be used to fund more services beyond key infrastructure (sewer, water, drainage, roads and parks) must be reviewed by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which provides technical advice to the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development (Ministry). The DFRC is chaired by the Ministry and includes representatives from local governments, the Province, the development community, building and real estate industries and the planning profession.

More information is necessary in order for the Ministry to take forward a proposal to expand the definition of allowable DCC expenditures to DFRC. Things to consider include, but are not limited to, demonstrating the direct costs of fire suppression and how the augmented capacity can be tied directly to new development. Ministry staff are available for advice and to discuss the information necessary to bring forward to DFRC for consideration/discussion.

B10 GENERATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS regional district fire departments provide essential lifesaving and emergency response services to communities throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the funding of essential capital infrastructure and equipment such as fire halls and emergency vehicles is very challenging for small fire departments and communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia work with UBCM to identify mechanisms and strategies to assist in generating sustainable funding for rural fire departments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Province recognizes that throughout BC, rural fire departments provide a critical service of fire and life safety response within their jurisdictions, and that these programs face a number of challenges.

The Province shares UBCM's concern regarding the challenges faced by rural fire departments. The Province, through the multi-stakeholder Fire Services Liaison Group (FSLG) Report Leadership Group (including UBCM), has worked on practical responses to the recommendations in the 2009 FSLG report, many of which relate to the challenges faced by rural departments. The Leadership Group's search for solutions has recognized the fiscal constraints faced by local authorities and the Provincial government. In November 2012, the Office of the Fire Commissioner released a report titled "Improving Fire Services: The Office of the Fire Commissioner's Response to the FSLG Report" which sets out a number of actions designed to address the issues identified by the FSLG. However, new fire services funding is not anticipated in the short term. Consistent with the recommendations of the Leadership Group, the Office of the Fire Commissioner will also be consulting with a Fire Services Advisory Committee on an ongoing basis regarding these and other fire service issues.

B11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

WHEREAS the *Local Government Grants Act* deals with matters including unconditional grants to local governments and defines how the Minister may in accordance with the *Act* and the regulations make unconditional grants to local governments and related organizations;

AND WHEREAS many communities do not have access to adequate funding for operations or to cope with infrastructure deficits, or the ability to compete successfully for many grants that come with conditions and Local Government Grant Regulations identify formulas for conditional and unconditional grants including Small Community Protection Grants;

AND WHEREAS the Regulations identify a small portion of provincial revenues that are available to be distributed unconditionally but do not result in providing timely assurance annually to communities that rely on these grants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the provincial government to review the *Local Government Grants Act* and the Local Government Grant Regulations with a view to establish a process to recognize new revenues including but not limited to a 1% point of the HST or PST whichever exists at the time, to be dedicated to be distributed to local governments on a per-capita basis and result in a more steady and predictable revenue stream for communities that need to budget and provide long-term solutions for their communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a process be adopted to simplify the procedure as is done in other provinces to reduce the excessive time lines for processing conditional and unconditional grant applications on behalf of local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

During the global financial crisis, the Province presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14, which requires the government to be fiscally prudent for the long-term benefit of all British Columbians. Even with this fiscal prudence, the Province is projecting only a modest surplus of approximately 0.35 percent of revenue. Failure to maintain this fiscal plan could easily plunge British Columbia back into deficit budgets. As a result, at this time, government is not considering any new revenue-sharing programs.

At the same time, the Province has responded to local government needs. Current unconditional grant funding is over $150 million per year. This is a greater level of funding than under the revenue sharing program of the 1990s. In total, senior governments have transferred nearly $5 billion in conditional and unconditional grant funding to local governments in BC over the last decade. These transfers have funded over 1400 studies and 1700 capital projects for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Regarding the turn-around time for conditional grant funding, the Province has a sixty day policy. That is, for provincial grant programs, the maximum time between the application deadline and the funding announcement is sixty days. For federal/provincial programs, timelines must be negotiated between the different levels of government. The Province will continue to work cooperatively with both the federal government and local governments to develop creative solutions regarding grant funding.

B12 SUPPORT FOR PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS the provincial government launched the Towns for Tomorrow funding program in December 2006 as part of the Province's effort to address the unique challenges faced by smaller communities in BC, particularly with respect to sustainability and meeting infrastructure needs;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government launched the Community Recreation Program in September 2011 to address the unique challenges faced by communities in the province with respect to meeting their recreational infrastructure needs;

AND WHEREAS both the Towns for Tomorrow Program and the Community Recreation Program invest in local government capital projects that contribute to the overall health, sustainability and liveability of communities;

AND WHEREAS both the Towns for Tomorrow Program and the Community Recreation Program give funding priority to smaller communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that support be expressed to the provincial government for the reactivation of the Towns for Tomorrow funding program and the Community Recreation Program.

RESPONISE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Ministry recognizes the unique challenges faced by smaller communities in BC, particularly with respect to sustainability and meeting infrastructure needs.

As such, the Ministry continues to look at opportunities to support local government capital projects that contribute to the overall health, sustainability and liveability of communities support. The Ministry also recognizes the province's commitment to being fiscally responsible.

Currently, the Ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, is consulting with the federal government on the development of a long-term infrastructure program. The Ministry's focus is on local government infrastructure, including smaller communities. It is hoped that a new program will be in place in the near future.

B13 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING CRITERIA

WHEREAS Canada and British Columbia have reduced the number of infrastructure funding programs available to local governments and those that are available are limited to specific types of infrastructure or specific government objectives;

AND WHEREAS small rural and urban local governments are struggling to deal with huge infrastructure deficits, while revenues from business, the resource sector, industry and other avenues continue to decline;

AND WHEREAS yearly property tax increases to cover operational costs are not sustainable, and hurt the ability of those local governments to attract and retain business and industry investment to their communities;

AND WHEREAS small rural and urban local governments do not have the necessary funds to acquire federal/provincial grants which require them to produce matching funds, and are therefore unable to take advantage of these infrastructure grants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to revise their grant formula so that they do not require matching funding, or come up with a new system that allows cash strapped local governments to address their critical infrastructure needs without having to borrow money to do so.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Ministry recognizes the challenges faced by small rural and urban local governments. This recognition led to the development of programs such as Towns for Tomorrow and the Community Recreation Program. In both of these programs, the provincial contribution was up to 80 percent, resulting in a local government contribution of 20 percent.

In addition, the Gas Tax Fund provides funding opportunities of 100 percent in the Community Works Fund as well as the pooled funding programs – the General Strategic Priorities Fund and the Innovation Fund.

As the Ministry develops, or participates in the development of, capital funding programs, the Ministry is always aware of the challenges of small local governments, and as such, analyses the cost-share formula in the development of all programs. With a finite amount of funding available, the Ministry tries to balance not only the financial challenges faced by small local governments, but also the need to maximize the benefits of these capital programs to as many local governments as possible.

While the Ministry are not committed to any revision with respect to cost sharing for programs for which the Ministry is responsible, the Ministry is aware of the issues and is committed to developing programs that are fair, practical and meet the various challenges faced by local governments.

B14 FLOOD PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS the Province has transferred construction and maintenance of flood protection infrastructure to local governments;

AND WHEREAS under the terms of the *Local Government Act*, local governments are not authorized to charge development costs for flood protection infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act,* Section 935 to include flood protection as a Development Cost Charge.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Usually, the owners of properties which benefit from flood protection infrastructure (dikes) pay for the construction and maintenance of the dikes directly by way of property taxes because those properties are most likely to receive a direct benefit if a flood occurs. It is important to note that dikes often require significant annual maintenance, and providing the funding for the construction of dikes does not provide funding for the ongoing maintenance costs associated with them.

Sometimes it is necessary to construct a dike system so that a development may proceed. If dikes are necessary before development can proceed, a municipality could require the developer to construct the dikes as a condition of development. Alternatively, if it is a fairly large development, a municipality could provide an opportunity in response to a petition from the property owner; ie, the developer, for the establishment of a local area service to provide for taxation of the benefiting properties to pay for the capital and maintenance costs.

Any suggestion that Development Cost Charges (DCCs) be used to fund services beyond key infrastructure (sewer, water, drainage, roads and parks) must be reviewed by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which provides technical advice to the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development (Ministry). DFRC is chaired by the Ministry and includes representatives from local government, the Province, the development community, building and real estate industries and the planning profession.

DCCs are generally imposed to raise funds intended to help finance construction of key infrastructure which will provide a general benefit to the community. Recent requests to DFRC to expand the use of DCCs have not been endorsed by DFRC. Because most diking systems have limited benefit and since there are other ways to finance the construction of a diking system; the Ministry is not convinced that the inclusion of dikes as infrastructure which may be funded by DCCs is appropriate. Should UBCM wish to bring the proposal to the DFRC, the Ministry is prepared to facilitate a discussion of the matter.

B15 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LICENSING – HEAVY INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC

WHEREAS the Commercial Vehicle Licensing Program was established by provincial statute to provide a source of revenue to participating municipalities to offset expenses related to the use of local government roads and highways as a result of commercial vehicle traffic;

AND WHEREAS the license fees established by Regulation 405/93 under the *Local Government Act* have not been increased since 1994 and do not address the impact of heavy industrial traffic use of local government roads and highways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to provide compensation to local governments to assist with the burden of infrastructure maintenance costs associated with ongoing use of local government roads and highways by heavy industrial vehicles.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Provincial highways are under the purview and responsibility of the Province. This includes signage, maintenance and capital improvements of the provincial highway system. Municipal roads are under the purview and responsibility of municipalities. Thus, municipalities are responsible for raising revenue to fund the ongoing capital and maintenance of their own municipal road systems. The Province is not prepared to provide compensation to municipalities for their road systems.

However, the Province would be prepared to review the Municipal Act Fees Regulation No. 1 (BC Reg 405/93), which sets licensing fees for commercial vehicles. This would be done in consultation with affected stakeholders.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

After the onset of the world financial crisis in 2008, provincial revenues deteriorated significantly and created a significant operating deficit after several years of budget surpluses. In Budget 2009 (September Update), the government presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14. We are still following this plan, and it has meant making very difficult fiscal decisions.

By restraining spending as we have, we are managing to keep income taxes among the lowest in Canada and have preserved our AAA credit rating, allowing us to pay lower interest rates on the funds we do borrow, which in turn helps to hold the line on taxation.

In Budget 2012, we projected a very modest $154 million surplus for 2013/14. On a budget of over $44 billion annually, this is a thin margin. With the current economic situation in Europe and elsewhere, achieving this target continues to be a challenge.

We continue to encourage you to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and other ministries as appropriate to arrive at creative solutions to the infrastructure and related issues that you are facing.

B16 FUNDING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WHEREAS small communities struggle with funding costly water infrastructure projects such as, but not limited to, the development and construction of a water treatment plant to address complaints of dirty and unsafe drinking water;

AND WHEREAS turbidity is not so much a health concern as an indicator of health risk particularly for at-risk populations such as newborns, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems (e.g. those with HIV/Aids, undergoing chemotherapy, or taking anti-rejection drugs) and can interfere with chlorination:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the federal and provincial governments to enhance funding programs to assist local governments to address issues of providing clean and safe drinking water to their communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Ministry recognizes the challenges faced by small communities in achieving critical services such as drinking water.

The Ministry has continued to support both small communities and the development of drinking water infrastructure through the development of provincial programs (BC Community Water Improvement Program and Towns for Tomorrow), as well as federal/provincial programs (Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Building Canada Fund – Communities Component and the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. These programs have provided local governments with access to funding to improve drinking water infrastructure, and ensure that communities and families have safe, potable water.

Currently, the Ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, is consulting with the federal government on the development of a long-term infrastructure program. The Ministry's focus is on local government infrastructure, including smaller communities. It is anticipated that a new program will focus on provincial, regional and local priorities, such as the provision of safe, potable drinking water.

B17 USE OF RESERVE FUNDS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS proceeds from the disposition of park land that becomes vested in the municipality as a result of subdivision, and was disposed of by bylaw with the approval of the electors, are to be placed to the credit of a park land acquisition reserve fund;

AND WHEREAS the municipality may have a surplus of lands designated as park land over time that it cannot afford to develop in the foreseeable future;

AND WHEREAS it would be extremely helpful, particularly to municipalities with limited finances, if the use of these reserve funds were expanded to allow funds to be expended on the development of existing municipal park land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* to enable local governments to expend park land acquisition funds to develop existing park land within their communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Funds in lieu of parkland dedication are specifically for the acquisition of park land only. This is to support a policy goal that up to 5% of all new development area is devoted to urban greenspace, which is critical to maintaining liveable and sustainable communities in BC. If some of this money is diverted to improvements for existing parks, there would be less money for park land acquisition thus, defeating the purpose of the policy.

The Province fully understands that there is more to a park than land. A park must be developed for public use and enjoyment (trails, playgrounds, picnic tables, playing fields, and convenient parking). However, that is not the purpose of park land acquisition. The park land acquisition provisions are designed to ensure that this green space is available for public use. Maintaining and upgrading these facilities beyond basic improvements provides a benefit to the wider community, and thus the cost of such improvements should be shared by all property owners.

Widening the scope of section 941of the *Local Government Act* has been reviewed in the past by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which is chaired by the Ministry and includes representatives from local government, the Province, and the development community. Local governments have other revenue tools to finance improvements to the parks and as such, there was consensus that expanding the parkland dedication provisions to a wider range of services would not be pursued.

Local governments have a number of revenue and development tools at their disposal. Some of the revenue generating tools available to local governments are set out in the following documents:

Development Finance Choices Guide
http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/development_finances_choices00_guide.pdf

Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide
http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/Parkland_Acquisition_BPG.pdf

B18 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

WHEREAS federal and provincial governments benefit from 92% of all tax revenue in Canada while increasingly relying on local government to deliver the vast majority of community-based services with only 8% of available tax revenue;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has commissioned an Expert Panel on Business Taxation to review tax policies in British Columbia, and among its many tax options the provincial government charges Property Transfer Tax on all transfers, including those made by local government agencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to grant an equitable share of BC Property Transfer Tax revenues to local governments, both to diversify their revenue sources and support the increasing levels of community-based services, aging infrastructure maintenance and replacement they are required to provide.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

After the onset of the world financial crisis in 2008, provincial revenues deteriorated significantly and created a significant operating deficit after several years of budget surpluses. In Budget 2009 (September Update), the government presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14. We are still following this plan, and it has meant making very difficult fiscal decisions.

By restraining spending as we have, we are managing to keep income taxes among the lowest in Canada and have preserved our AAA credit rating, allowing us to pay lower interest rates on the funds we do borrow, which in turn help to hold the line on taxation.

In Budget 2012, we projected a very modest $154 million surplus for 2013/14. On a budget of over $44 billion annually, this is a thin margin. With the current economic situation in Europe and elsewhere, achieving this target continues to be a challenge.

As a result, at this time government is not considering any new revenue-sharing programs, but certainly recognizes the fiscal issues being faced by local governments.

Therefore we continue to encourage you to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and other ministries as appropriate to arrive at creative solutions to the infrastructure and related issues that you are facing. Please note however, there is an exemption from property transfer tax for transfers to municipalities and regional districts.

B19 ROAD REHABILITATION & ASSOCIATED FUNDING

WHEREAS municipal roads are a key part of the provincial transportation infrastructure delivering goods and services that benefit the provincial economy, and local governments are limited in their ability to generate revenues to offset the increased costs of road rehabilitation, and the federal government has recognized the importance of sharing the federal gas tax with local governments;

AND WHEREAS the purchasers of gasoline outside the South Coast British Columbia transportation service region must pay to the provincial government, at the time of purchase, tax on the gasoline at the rate of 7.75¢ per litre, in accordance with the provisions of the *Motor Fuel Tax Act;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Government of British Columbia to provide a portion of the provincial gas tax to local governments on the same basis as the federal gas tax, to fund road rehabilitation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

After the onset of the world financial crisis in 2008, provincial revenues deteriorated significantly and created a significant operating deficit after several years of budget surpluses. In Budget 2009 (September Update), the government presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14. We are still following this plan, and it has meant making very difficult fiscal decisions.

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B20 REVENUE SHARING

WHEREAS municipalities are the service centres for industries and their suppliers as well as their workers and families and municipalities in northwest British Columbia have entered into a welcome period of economic growth with an estimated $30 billion worth of investment in mining, natural gas pipelines, bio-energy, power production, modernized manufacturing facilities and ports either underway or on the horizon;

AND WHEREAS with economic expansion local governments in northwest BC will not be able to adequately provide infrastructure and services to support those activities without a fair share of revenue derived from incremental taxes paid to the Province to support the impacts those industries have on local infrastructure and support services;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has, since 1998, recognized this principle in northeast BC where incremental sources of revenue derived from the oil and gas businesses are shared with local municipalities through the Memorandum of Understanding (the Fair Share Agreement) between British Columbia and the Peace River Regional District:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM continue to advocate for a share of resource revenues being returned to communities in recognition of the services and infrastructure that local governments provide to support economic development in their region.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

After the onset of the world financial crisis in 2008, provincial revenues deteriorated significantly and created a significant operating deficit after several years of budget surpluses. In Budget 2009 (September Update), the government presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14. We are still following this plan, and it has meant making very difficult fiscal decisions.

By restraining spending as we have, we are managing to keep income taxes among the lowest in Canada and have preserved our AAA credit rating, allowing us to pay lower interest rates on the funds we do borrow, which in turn helps to hold the line on taxation.

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As a result, at this time government is not considering any new revenue-sharing programs, but certainly recognizes the fiscal issues being faced by local governments. Therefore we continue to encourage you to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and other ministries as appropriate to arrive at creative solutions to the infrastructure and related issues that you are facing.

B21 BC CONSERVATION SERVICE CAPACITY

WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for managing bears through its Conservation Service, and the BC Conservation Service has not been able to adequately address bear-human conflict in municipalities due to lack of capacity;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are unable to appropriately respond to bear-human conflict, as their role is to enact policies that deter wildlife and limit wildlife attractants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to provide adequate funding and staffing in order for the BC Conservation Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing bear-human conflict in communities across BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes municipalities' desire to increase the level of funding to the Conservation Officer Service (COS). Government must also take into consideration the overall needs of the entire province. Factors such as service request volume, population growth, increased development on the land base and the overall numbers of Conservation Officers (COs) in the geographic area are all considered when staff deployments are assessed.

The COS will continue to maintain its current level of service delivery through officers working in the larger geographic area, as well as collaborative initiatives with other law enforcement agencies.

The COS will continue to emphasize wildlife-human conflict prevention through proactive programs. COs will respond to wildlife conflicts, and most often remove animals, when the conflict poses a public safety risk or results in significant property damage. Translocation of animals is rarely supported due to concerns for animal welfare, disease transmission and genetic dilution.

The provincial government is committed to reducing conflicts between wildlife and humans as part of its strategic goal of maintaining safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment.

Through its program of proactive outreach, education and partnerships the COS is providing alternatives that are more effective, cost less and result in destruction of fewer animals.

The "Bear Smart" Community Program is a voluntary, preventative conservation program that encourages communities, businesses and individuals to work together to address the root causes of human-bear conflicts, thereby reducing the risks to human safety and private property, as well as the number of bears that have to be destroyed each year.

Bear Aware is an education program focused on reducing human-bear conflict in residential neighbourhoods through education, innovation and cooperation. The Bear Aware program provides a consistent educational package to those communities that wish to pursue "Bear Smart" status. This ensures that communities do not have to "re-invent the wheel" when implementing an education program and the content follows government standards. Bear Aware Education has proven to be an effective tool to decrease conflicts and an integral component of the Ministry's "Bear Smart" Community Program. Bear Aware is administered by the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF).

Funding for Bear Aware has been provided in the amount of $357,000 from 2010/11 to 2011/12 and a further $225,000 for 2012/13. This funding allows Bear Aware to support approximately 40 communities in British Columbia (BC) in their efforts to reduce human-bear conflicts this season. The program will provide increased public awareness regarding the biology and ecology of bears, the effective management of bear attractants and the risks faced, by both people and bears, when bears are attracted into towns to forage for food. An active Bear Aware program will promote the continued reduction of attractants available to bears within BC communities and a continued trend in the reduction of the number of bears destroyed due to conflict with humans in residential and recreational areas of the province.

Over 20 communities in BC are actively pursuing "Bear Smart" and four communities, Kamloops, Squamish, Lions Bay and Whistler have successfully attained official "Bear Smart" status.

Also, recent amendments to the *Wildlife Act* give COs the ability to take enforcement action, issue tickets ($230 fine) or appearance notices for a court appearance (up to $50,000 and/or up to 6 months imprisonment) to deal with people who repeatedly and negligently fail to secure attractants.

The new enforcement tools complement existing tools and are expected to reduce the number of animals that become conditioned to negligently managed attractants, leading to increased public safety.

In communities where bylaws do not exist, or where local enforcement officers who enforce municipal bylaws have not been able to successfully resolve attractant issues, COs may intervene and enforce the legislation under the *Wildlife Act*. Local governments would not be expected to change their existing garbage/solid waste services or bylaws to accommodate the changes (e.g., by requiring all garbage to be placed in certain types of containers or only at certain times etc.).

B22 FUNDING FOR BC CONSERVATION SERVICE

WHEREAS underfunding is having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

AND WHEREAS the ability to respond to environmental concerns is hampered by the lack of human and financial resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be urged to provide appropriate budgets and staffing to fully support the continued and sustained operation of the conservation service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province appreciates the support municipalities are expressing for the work that Conservation Officers do in their region and the Conservation Officer Service overall.

The Province recognizes municipalities' desire to increase the level of funding to the Conservation Officer Service. Government must also take into consideration the overall needs of the entire province. Factors such as service request volume, population growth, increased development activity on the land base and the overall numbers of Conservation Officers in the geographic area are all considered when staff deployments are assessed.

The Conservation Officer Service will continue to maintain its current level of service delivery through officers working in the larger geographic area, as well as collaborative initiatives with other law enforcement agencies. The Conservation Officer Service continues to transform how it does its work, leveraging the use of technology such as rugged laptops and iPhones to increase the mobility of the Conservation Officers and ensure an increased presence on the landscape because they no longer need to be in the office to perform many of their functions.

B23 REMOVAL OF DERELICT & ABANDONED VESSELS FROM COASTAL WATERS

WHEREAS derelict and abandoned vessels in the waters of coastal British Columbia can pose a threat to the aesthetics, environment, health and safety of coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory regime for the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels from the waters of coastal British Columbia is not serving our communities with effective and timely removal of such vessels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal and provincial governments to implement a Derelict Vessel Removal Program modelled after the Washington State program, and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wreck in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province shares many of the concerns expressed by coastal communities with respect to derelict and abandoned vessels in coastal waters. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) is actively exploring long-term solutions within available resources during a period of fiscal constraint. FLNR is participating in the development of a guidance paper to clarify roles and responsibilities for each organization with a mandate to address derelict vessels. The paper is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. The estimated time for completion of the review and posting of the paper on the FLNRO internet site is February 14, 2013. FLNR communicates regularly with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard and works with the federal agencies to find collaborative solutions for addressing concerns associated with derelict and abandoned vessels.

In 2011/12, FLNR worked with local governments and individuals wishing to accept responsibility for vessel cleanup by contributing some operational funding to cover partial equipment costs associated with the removal of vessels. Staff from regional-federal agencies are working with their counterparts in Ottawa to seek funding and to develop a permanent solution for the Pacific coast.

B24 INCREASED FUNDING & RESOURCES FOR STREAM PROTECTION

WHEREAS the protection and restoration of watercourses are of benefit to local governments and the general public insofar as healthy watercourses and supporting ecosystems provide valuable ecosystem services, such as filtration, purification and delivery of water; mitigation of floods; renewal of soil and soil fertility; maintenance of biodiversity; and cultural and spiritual value;

AND WHEREAS the protection of water resources is principally a responsibility of the Province under the *Water Act* and the *Fish Protection Act*;

AND WHEREAS reduced provincial funding for critical water resource regulatory and enforcement services is placing increased pressure on local governments to take on additional responsibility for the regulation of development in and about watercourses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide increased human resources to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) in order to uphold its mandate, and additional resources to support local government efforts in protecting and restoring watercourses.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province recognizes the importance that provincial water resources contribute to community needs, a healthy environment and economic growth.

Managing this important resource was one the key drivers in creating the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), which expands responsibility for water issues to a greater number of provincial staff. It also allows for a "one land manager" approach to resource management, which is of critical importance in protecting provincial water resources. These changes have allowed the province to use existing staff resources in a more efficient manner.

In addition, FLNR staff continue to work with staff from the Ministry Environment on modernizing the *Water Act,* the key piece of legislation governing water in BC.

B25 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has provided funding and programs to homeowners for energy efficiency improvements;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the Climate Action Charter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM requests the Province of British Columbia to continue and to expand programs that will encourage the retrofitting of existing housing stock to improve energy efficiency.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The LiveSmart BC Efficiency Incentive Program for homes received renewed funding of $35 million in 2011, which extended the program until March 31, 2013.

Since 2008, over 100,000 homes in British Columbia had energy assessments completed and received an EnerGuide Rating System rating of between 0 - 100. Nearly 75 percent of those homes completed energy efficiency upgrades and received incentives through LiveSmart BC, funded in part by the program's utility company partners, FortisBC (gas), FortisBC Power Sense (electric) and BC Hydro Power Smart. The lessons learned about home energy assessments, homeowner engagement with retrofit contractors and homeowner financing of retrofit projects are all informing the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas (Ministry) and its utility partners in the development of the next generation of programs and regulatory tools to advance energy efficiency retrofits in British Columbia homes.

Amendments to the *Clean Energy Act* in 2011 and the subsequent 2012 Improvement Financing Regulation have enabled utility companies to develop pilot projects for on-bill energy efficiency financing programs in two British Columbia locations - the City of Colwood (BC Hydro Power Smart pilot) and the South Okanagan region (FortisBC gas and electric). These pilots will launch in November 2012, allowing customers to access low-interest financing for energy efficiency improvements and then repay the loan on monthly or bi-monthly utility bills. In some cases, the energy and thus financial savings achieved from the retrofits will be greater than the monthly payment amounts, providing homeowners with extra incentive to access the no-upfront-cost method of upgrading their homes.

Province-wide utility on-bill financing for energy efficiency upgrades is expected to be available to all British Columbians in the Fall of 2014.

Utility companies continue to develop their energy efficiency programs for homes, for example rebates for energy efficiency retrofits (including low income households) and

for new home construction. New, coordinated offerings were announced in summer 2012.

In addition, the Ministry and utilities are exploring program options for home energy efficiency upgrades beyond March 31, 2013.

The Ministry also continues to develop regulatory tools to advance energy efficiency in homes, including upcoming Fall 2012 province-wide consultations on proposed *Energy Efficiency Act* standards for boilers, set-top boxes, fluorescent lighting and geo-exchange heat pumps.

Further, the Ministry has an ongoing mandate to raise the minimum standards for energy efficiency in equipment used in homes. Consultations on a regulation for set-top boxes (DVRs etc) took place in fall 2012. A decision on the proposed regulation is expected in spring 2013.

B26 BROWNFIELDS

WHEREAS vacant sites or orphan properties known as "brownfields" are often on properties located along transportation corridors and in downtown core areas, are eyesores to the community and have caused real or suspected environmental contamination and negatively impact economic development of that specific site and in the general area of that specific site;

AND WHEREAS the owners of these "brownfield" sites have already reaped the benefits and should have an obligation to clean-up their own mess;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B33, which strongly urged the provincial government to take immediate steps to implement the previously adopted resolutions 2007-B29 and 2007-B70 that were passed at the 2007 Convention and no concrete action has taken place;

AND WHEREAS there has been no real progress to support rural communities continuing to face the challenge of economic loss and unsightly premises in their downtown core due to real or suspected environmental contamination on vacant lots;

AND WHEREAS provincial policies and regulations for remediation of brownfield sites are vague and not strictly enforced:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Ministry of Environment be authorized to legislate that owners of all contaminated brownfield sites, regardless of their hazard rating, be remediated upon request from the local government and provide timely communication with the local government regarding remediation progress.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

In response to issues related to the delay of remediation activities on contaminated sites (which include brownfield sites), the Province has implemented policy that imposes a time limit of one year for completion of site investigation of decommissioned sites. This time limit helps to expedite the remediation process and determine the degree of risk of contamination at these sites sooner. High risk sites are then identified and dealt with appropriately. Policy also includes the release of local government demolition permits so that structures that frequently become unsightly if left in place may be removed in a timely manner.

The Province is also available to assist local governments decrease the impact brownfields may have on the visual aesthetic of a community by providing input into a model bylaw that could address safety and landscaping requirements for brownfield sites prior to redevelopment.

B27 MILK CONTAINERS

WHEREAS beverage containers for milk, milk substitutes, rice milk, soya milk, flavoured milk, infant formulas, meal replacements or dietary supplements are not included in the deposit-refund beverage container stewardship program, require extensive space in municipal blue boxes and collection vehicles, and contribute to garbage and litter throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the deposit-refund beverage container stewardship program is the most effective and environmentally responsible way to divert these containers from disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government remove the exemption for milk, milk substitutes, rice milk, soya milk, flavoured milk, infant formulas, meal replacements or dietary supplements beverage containers in the beverage container product category of the Recycling Regulation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province acknowledges that milk and milk substitute containers not currently captured under the Beverage Container Schedule of the Recycling Regulation (2004) do require significant space in the current municipal blue box programs. However, the Province does not intend to add deposit-refund obligations to these containers at this time.

The Recycling Regulation (2004) does not include deposits on containers for milk and milk substitutes such as soya milk, rice milk, infant formula, meal replacements and dietary supplements, as extra deposit costs could impact the ability of vulnerable members of society to meet basic nutritional needs.

Deposits on pop and juice have helped industry beverage container programs achieve high recovery rates, as many of these drinks are consumed in non-residential places where recycling options are less convenient. Most milk containers are used in the home and are not generally considered a littering issue.

All containers not currently regulated under the Beverage Container Schedule of the Recycling Regulation, including containers for milk and milk substitutes, are captured under the Packaging and Printed Paper category of the Regulation.

Regulated producers will have to develop collection methods that will meet recovery targets and they must consult with stakeholders when designing and implementing their stewardship programs. Local governments are encouraged to provide their input on efficient, convenient and environmentally preferable methods for collecting milk and milk substitute containers during the packaging consultations.

The Province will expect the producers' packaging program to achieve high performance targets as set out in their plan, or as part of a plan they join with other producers of packaging.

B28 EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS the Regional District of Central Kootenay adopted an interest statement on Extended Producer Responsibility Programs in November 2011, which stated in part that:

- All actors in the product stewardship system, including local governments, must be adequately compensated for their role;
- All stakeholders, including local governments, must have a genuine say in how product stewardship programs are planned and managed;

And further:

- The current owners of this infrastructure must be adequately compensated for historic investments;

AND WHEREAS remote and rural private sector depots are withdrawing from product stewardship programs due to their overly onerous rules and inadequate financial compensation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the EPR program performance data it has collected, and based on program performance issues indicated by the data, revamp the Extended Producer Responsibility Program before it collapses in remote and rural BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Recycling Regulation establishes stewardship responsibilities for producers of prescribed products. The regulation requires the provision of reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities. Producers or their delegated agencies determine how to meet this requirement and private depots make business decisions about whether to operate within a stewardship program. While the Ministry oversees stewardship program performance to ensure regulatory requirements are met, it does not interfere with business-to-business dealings.

In May 2011, the Recycling Regulation was amended to make it a regulatory requirement to report annually on the total amount of the producer's product recovered in each regional district effective July 1, 2013. This will help inform rural service levels and ensure that stewardship programs are being adequately delivered. Regional District data reported by stewardship programs will be available to local governments and the public in stewardship program annual reports, which are posted online. To enhance collection services for rural residents, the producers or their stewardship agencies continue to work toward expanding their return collection networks and many supplement their collection efforts with alternative options such as one-day product round-ups or mail-back options.

Local governments are encouraged to participate in industry stakeholder consultations for new stewardship programs or during the five-year stewardship plan reviews. Effective consultation may include suggesting results-based performance measurement criteria and performance targets that would demonstrate adequate rural coverage, as well as appropriate cost-sharing models between stewardship agencies and local governments. The Province will continue to work with local governments, producers and stewardship agencies to ensure continuous improvement of BC's product stewardship programs.

The Recycling Regulation is deliberately silent with respect to financing mechanisms. Proposals for cost-sharing agreements between producers or stewardship agencies and local governments with respect to managing product wastes regulated under the Recycling Regulation would need to be negotiated between these parties directly. The Ministry is working to ensure stewardship programs engage with local governments and conduct ongoing dialogue.

B29 ILLEGAL DUMPING ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS illegal dumping is a growing problem for local governments and the environment;

AND WHEREAS enforcement action for illegal waste disposal on Crown land is unsatisfactory:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be urged to invest more resources in prosecuting offenders who unlawfully deposit waste material on Crown land.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes that illegal dumping is a growing concern for local governments and the environment, as well as a significant public safety concern in communities across British Columbia.

The Conservation Officer Service will continue to maintain its current level of service delivery through officers working in the larger geographic area, as well as collaborative initiatives with other law enforcement agencies.

In June, 2012, the Natural Resource Officer designation came into effect. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) Compliance and Enforcement staff were designated as Natural Resource Officers. The designation provides consistency regarding their authorities and increases the enforcement presence in the natural resource sector. At this time, the Natural Resource Officers have been authorized to enforce legislation falling within the mandate of FLNRO. The majority of these staff have also been given authority as Special Conservation Officers which enables them to enforce legislation that is within the mandate of the Ministry of Environment. Examples of this include issues around litter and open burning.

B30 AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING

WHEREAS agricultural plastics and twine are recyclable materials generated by the agricultural industry and often sent to municipal solid waste landfills for disposal;

AND WHEREAS diverting agricultural plastics and twine to recycling facilities will reduce the volume of non-biodegradable materials at the landfill;

AND WHEREAS the BC Agricultural Council has recently funded a research project to investigate environmentally sound and sustainable options for managing and recycling twine and agricultural plastic;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment has added Schedule 5 – Packaging and Printed Paper to the Recycling Regulation;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment has a mandate to add two new product categories to the Recycling Regulation every three years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment work in conjunction with the agricultural industry to expedite the inclusion of agricultural plastics and twine to the Packaging and Printed Paper stewardship program or adding agricultural plastics and twine as a new product category under the Recycling Regulation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes that packaging waste from the agricultural industry is recyclable and that diverting agricultural plastics and twine to recycling facilities will reduce the volume of non-biodegradable materials at the landfill.

The Recycling Regulation does not currently mandate the collection of packaging and printed paper from industrial, commercial or institutional premises. The Province intends to include this sector in the future, and is currently undertaking scoping work to identify the flow and volume of packaging materials from these sectors.

The Province is committed to supporting the development of a comprehensive provincial program for packaging and printed paper. A phased implementation by sector will support this vision, as a successfully implemented program for residential and municipal premises will help to determine the best approach for the industrial, commercial and institutional sector.

The Province looks forward to engaging key stakeholders leading up to a regulatory amendment to include the industrial, commercial and institutional sector. This includes leveraging existing research such as the BC Agricultural Council-funded project investigating environmentally sound and sustainable options for managing and recycling twine and agricultural plastic.

B31 USE OF RECLAIMED WATER

WHEREAS it is deemed in the public interest to provide effective regulations for the use of reclaimed or non-potable water:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial ministries and federal departments resolve inter-departmental and inter-agency conflicts and contradictions in the regulatory approach towards reclaimed local government water use through stakeholder meetings and if necessary a task force or committee be created or have this mandate included in their terms of reference to work with local governments to reach these goals;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial ministries and federal departments promote the use of reclaimed and non-potable water through the recommendations above and an effective program for the education of the public and stakeholders;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the spill reporting requirements of treated effluent as a hazardous material be revised and made practical and manageable through the operational certificate which determines treatment level.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

In April 2012, the Province replaced the Municipal Sewage Regulation with the Municipal Wastewater Regulation. Compliance with the regulation provides authorization (with minimum standards and requirements) for the treatment, reuse, and discharge of domestic sewage, wastewater or municipal liquid waste.

The new Municipal Wastewater Regulation reorganizes and consolidates related requirements. It corrects conflicting or confusing requirements and communicates them in a simplified manner. Also, the number of statutory decisions in the new regulation has been reduced by 50%, making it easier to use reclaimed water from wastewater treatment plants.

The Spill Reporting Regulation requires that all unauthorized releases of substances into the environment are reported so that appropriate action can be identified. This ensures that public health and environmental quality are protected while allowing for the required actions to correlate with the severity of the impacts. If high-quality reclaimed water is spilled, no further action may be necessary; however, reporting allows the Province to respond to inquiries with accurate information. There are no plans to modify this regulation at this time.

The Province is interested in continuing to work with local governments to further promote, and identify barriers to, the safe use of reclaimed and non-potable water.

B32 STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS local governments are encouraged to consult with First Nations on land use decisions;

AND WHEREAS the Province has initiated Strategic Engagement Agreements with First Nations groups regarding resource support for undertaking consultations between provincial ministries and First Nations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be lobbied to include local government within the Strategic Engagement Agreements with First Nations groups and that capacity funding under the agreements include referrals from local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

As the provincial government develops new relationships with First Nations in British Columbia, Strategic Engagement Agreements (SEAs) have become effective tools which result in co-operative decision-making and complement the negotiation of treaties for long-term reconciliation.

The Province, through the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (the Ministry), negotiates SEAs with First Nations. SEAs are complex agreements which provide capacity for First Nations to engage in consultation, and establish procedures to manage consultation for Crown natural resource authorizations. These agreements are designed to be continuously improving, with renewed agreements building on the merits of the initial engagement frameworks.

The Ministry recognizes the continued interest of some local governments in SEA negotiations, and remains prepared to consider opportunities for potential local government participation on a pilot basis.

The Ministry also acknowledges the capacity challenges faced by First Nations and some local governments when responding to referrals and participating in negotiations. While no new provincial funding is available at this time, the Ministry understands the importance of ongoing and timely communication between the Province, local governments and First Nations.

B33 RAW LOG EXPORTS

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has allowed a sharp and sustained rise in the volume of exported timber, which has distorted the domestic price structure for logs, eliminated British Columbia manufacturing jobs, undermined the structural integrity of the forest industry and severely hampered the creation of jobs and economic opportunities in the province;

AND WHEREAS these policies have had a devastating impact on many local communities across the province that rely on the forest industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM forward this resolution to the Province of British Columbia, indicating its objection to any measures that would increase the export of raw logs from British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

While it is true that the volume of timber exported from Coastal BC reached a record level in 2011, the Province has not recently changed timber export policy to encourage increased exportation.

In many cases, the ability for companies to export timber under Provincial jurisdiction enables them to harvest in areas that would otherwise be uneconomic. Since they only export a small portion of what they harvest (less than 10% of BC harvest was exported in 2011), the majority of the wood they access with the export premium is therefore a benefit to domestic manufacturing.

The Province only allows for the export of timber that manufacturing facilities consider surplus to their needs. Manufacturing facilities have been able to maintain or increase production levels due to the increased harvest of timber brought about by timber export. The domestic log market prices have adjusted due to demand from domestic mills and their ability to pay relative to the prices they can get for products they produce.

In 2009, the province hit a low point in timber harvest and manufacturing because of the worldwide economic recession. Since then, with a strong increase in demand for our products, especially from China, our industry has been recovering. No mill closures have occurred as a result of timber exports.

To date, timber export volumes are down five percent from 2011 levels. However, the number of offers on wood advertised for export from domestic mills has dropped dramatically. In addition, a number of mills have been able to increase production levels over the past two years.

The Province is currently engaged in a review of log export policy and will take measures as necessary to ensure that domestic mills continue to have access to wood advertised for export prior to exports being approved.

Log exports are a sensitive issue and play an important role in our forest economy. This role is not always easy to understand. However, the key consideration of our log export policy is the vitality of our domestic manufacturing industry.

B34 FARM MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

WHEREAS it is important to ensure that information about local farming practices is shared in the farming community;

AND WHEREAS local expertise on soils, crops and land improvements is being lost as farmers and provincial government staff retire:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Ministry of Agriculture develop agricultural advisory services to promote mentorship programs and peer to peer networking programs that will encourage local farmers to share their expertise with new farmers coming into the industry.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

The Province recognizes that it is important to ensure that information about local farming practices is shared in the farming community for new farmers coming into the industry.

The Ministry of Agriculture's (Ministry) Agriculture Youth Development Program continues to provide the program development and community leadership education to build future leaders in the agriculture industry and connect them with others in the industry. Staff are also working with 4-H Canada to launch a Future Leaders program for youth aged 18-25 which would benefit youth career development and enhance agriculture awareness.

The Ministry's business development program is working to support new entrants and beginning farmers. The www.smartfarmbc.ca website is a robust, high-value platform providing the sector with key information and knowledge resources from a wide range of internal and external sources and from collaborating partners. Along with a new farm enterprise publication, there is new farmer information and videos. The platform is targeting to align with contemporary business technology trends (social media, connectivity, on-line communication and access to key business management information). It would be worth exploring how this platform and possibly other programs could enable new ways to support mentoring.

The organization Farm Start BC (http://www.farmstartbc.ca) is a good resource for new farmers as well as local universities and colleges. Our linkages with these groups provide the sharing of information as well as materials such as 'Fields For Your Future'.

B35 BUY BC

WHEREAS the former BUY BC program has been the most successful food and beverage advertising program every jointly undertaken by the provincial government and private industry;

AND WHEREAS the current economic climate has created challenges for our agricultural sector:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government of BC reinstate and fund the BUY BC program for agricultural products.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

On August 30th, the BC Ministry of Agriculture announced that it is investing $2 million to help B.C. farmers and producers promote local foods.

The funding will showcase the diversity of B.C.'s producers and build on the passion British Columbians have for local foods across the province. By allowing local businesses and organizations to launch or expand their own campaigns, different sectors of B.C.'s diverse food industry can use customized promotions specific to their market and needs. The funding is targeted to help small-scale producers and businesses in particular promote their products.

Business and organizations will be able to apply for matching funding from the provincial government for projects that promote local foods. Projects could include in-store promotions, social media or web campaigns, traditional advertising, on-product labeling, food-tourism maps and smart phone apps.

Building the local market for B.C. foods is a key component of government's plan to lead the agrifoods sector growth into a $14-billion-a-year industry by 2017.

B36 POWERLINE IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS many regions of British Columbia are in need of power line improvements, substation upgrades and distribution system expansions/enhancements that will provide adequate, stable, reliable power;

AND WHEREAS all regions of BC are reliant on the power and distribution system for community stability, jobs and economic growth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government and BC Hydro to make the power line and distribution system improvements a high priority for all regions of British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

British Columbia's generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure is ageing, like many electricity grids across North America. BC Hydro identified the highest priority projects and is taking action necessary to ensure it can supply growing demand while meeting North American reliability standards.

BC Hydro is a regulated utility that recovers its costs and a set rate of return for the Province which helps fund Government programs. The cost of reinvesting in provincial generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure will be borne by BC Hydro ratepayers. Consequently, Government must balance the need for renewing the provincial grid with the impacts these improvements will have on ratepayers.

Access to electricity has become a foundational piece of our society. The Province recognizes the importance of reliable power to both community stability and economic development. However, the Province also recognizes that there is a limit to what ratepayers can afford. Accordingly, BC Hydro will continue with its plan to address the highest priority infrastructure needs while mitigating rate impacts.

B37 SCHOOL BASED YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS youth mental health services need to be conveniently located for vulnerable youth and their families;

AND WHEREAS the number of youth who are supported by youth agreements increased by more than 152% between 2007 and 2010, demonstrating the increasing numbers of youth for whom school may be the most consistent point of accessible community contact:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province support integrated services and work with school districts and local governments to provide and evaluate youth mental health services in a school setting.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

The Province is committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of children and youth, which is a shared interest and responsibility with partners, including parents, community and schools. Several ministries are involved in this important work and strive to work together in an integrated and collaborative fashion in order to meet common objectives.

In 2010, the Province released Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in British Columbia. The Plan takes a whole systems approach to mental health promotion, prevention of mental illness and problematic substance use, harm reduction and care, treatment and supported recovery.

A specific action within this priority is to promote mental health within schools and post secondary institutions through comprehensive school and campus health activities that improve health and education outcomes and encourage the development of lifelong skills, attitudes, and healthy behaviours. The plan is led by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), in partnership with other ministries, including the Ministry of Education (MEd), crown agencies, health authorities, key non-governmental organizations and the research community.

MCFD is leading the development and implementation of the child and youth portion of Healthy Minds, Healthy People in collaboration with partner ministries and community stakeholders. MCFD is committed to improving mental health outcomes for children, youth and their families and strengthening child and youth mental health services as part of the MCFD Operational and Strategic Directional Plan 2012/13-2014/15.

FRIENDS, a school-based anxiety prevention and resiliency skill-building program, is funded by MCFD and delivered in cooperation with school districts, independent schools, First Nations Schools Association and MEd.

MCFD supports strong linkages between schools and community Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) teams. CYMH clinicians routinely collaborate with schools to meet the needs of individual children, youth and their families.

School-based mental health services depend on the school, the district and the region. Examples include:

- In the Vancouver Coastal Region, every school is linked with a local Ministry CMYH worker, who provides services based on the needs identified within their student population.
- In the North, Ministry mental health consultants are involved in consultations and case planning with school staff for individual students.
- In the Interior, MCFD and some school districts are cost-sharing to support school-based CYMH positions.
- On Vancouver Island, a CYMH clinician has been seconded to provide mental health services within a School District.

The Province has developed inter-ministerial protocols relating to support services for school-aged children and youth, which outline responsibilities for the provision of mental health care within schools and the linkage to community-based mental health and substance use care across the partner Ministries of Education, Health, Children and Family Development, and Justice.

The Province has also developed ERASE (Expect Respect and a Safe Education), a comprehensive strategy to address bullying and harmful behaviours and to promote positive mental health in the school setting. Led by the Ministry of Education, key elements include: training that will be delivered to community partners, including mental health workers and child-welfare workers; development of formal community protocols and designation of a Safe Schools Coordinator to guide and coordinate their work with community partners; and creation of a provincial advisory committee with representatives from schools, social agencies, police and other community partners.

MEd, MCFD, and MoH are also members of the British Columbia School-Based Mental Health Coalition, a cross-sector group of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and advocates that aims to promote positive mental health in BC schools and strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and cross-sector collaboration for school-based policies and programs throughout the province.

B38 MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL BC

WHEREAS there is a current lack of adequate medical transportation for people who need access to regular specialized medical services located in hub communities throughout the NCLGA Region;

AND WHEREAS accessible transportation is key to the effective treatment and recovery of British Columbians in small rural and remote communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide additional medical transportation services that meet the needs of all rural British Columbians.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Travel Assistance Program (TAP) is available to eligible B.C. residents who are required to travel outside their home community to obtain non-emergency, physician-referred specialist medical care. The program is a corporate partnership between the Ministry of Health and private transportation carriers who agree to waive or discount their regular fees for patients presenting an approved TAP confirmation form.

TAP assists patients who are being referred by a General Practitioner to the closest site for non-emergency, medical specialist services which are not available locally. An escort is eligible for TAP only when accompanying a patient who is 18 years of age and under, or incapable of travelling independently for medical reasons. It does not offer subsidies for family members.

Health Connections is a health authority based regional travel assistance program that offers subsidized transportation options to help defray costs for rural residents who must travel to obtain non-emergency, physician-referred medical care outside their home communities. Northern Health (NH) Connections retains a contractor to provide low-cost bus transportation for patients needing to travel for out-of-town medical appointments in northern BC, Vancouver, Kamloops and Grande Prairie, Alberta. NH has also negotiated preferred rates with several hotels throughout the province (as well as Grande Prairie and Edmonton) to offer low-cost options for patients who must stay overnight outside of their home communities.

The BC Family Residence Program provides assistance to enable families to stay together when their child requires medical care at BC Children's Hospital, including premature babies and newborns with other health concerns. Enhanced travel assistance is also provided through improved ground transportation for children and air transportation for patients of all ages.

Additional information on these programs is available at:
http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/tapbc/index.html

B39 PALLIATIVE CARE IN BC

WHEREAS the current model of palliative care services does not address the critical needs of small rural and remote communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS lack of palliative care does not allow for residents to end their life with dignity in their home community near family and friends:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government provide additional palliative care services throughout British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

End-of-life care is an important component of health care. In British Columbia, health authorities are responsible for planning and delivering health care services for the residents of their jurisdictions, including end-of-life care. Health authorities provide the best possible quality of life for dying patients and their families by offering a range of options wherever the client is living – whether in their home, hospital, hospice, assisted living residence, or a residential care facility. The goal is to ensure that clients have a range of alternative care settings and that palliative patients have access to quality care at the right time, in the most appropriate setting.

End-of-life care is continually evolving and as BC's population grows and ages, government has recognized this area as an expanding priority. Great improvement has occurred over the last two or three decades in palliative care and, in particular, the ability to manage pain and other unpleasant symptoms. By combining the best of modern clinical palliative care with services to support people's social, psychological and spiritual needs, society has the means to deliver a very high standard of end-of-life care.

The BC Palliative Care Benefits Program, started in 2001, supports BC residents of any age who have reached the end stage of life-threatening illness and want to receive medically appropriate palliative care at home. The intent of the BC Palliative Care Benefits Program is to allow patients to receive palliative care at home rather than be admitted to hospital. The program gives palliative patients access to receive the same drug benefits they would receive as if in hospital, and access to some medical supplies and equipment from their health authority.

Many individuals would prefer to spend their final days at home rather than in hospital. The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) and its partners plan services that support high quality end-of-life care at home. Home and Community Care services throughout BC include hospice palliative and end-of-life care to allow people to be cared for at home for as long as possible, and/or to be admitted for short term residential care up to and including death.

On September 1, 2011, advance directives became another new legal option for capable adults in BC to do advance care planning to make their wishes known for their future health care treatment decisions, and management of their routine finances and personal care without having to visit a lawyer. Advance care planning allows any individual to document his or her wishes and instructions for future health care. For more information, please visit the following websites:
End-of-life: http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/hcc/endoflife.html
Advance Care Planning: http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/hcc/advance-care-planning.html

Additionally, on February 14, 2012, the Minister of Health announced actions to improve the lives of seniors. The "Improving the Care of BC Seniors: An Action Plan" addresses concerns expressed publicly and directly to the Minister of Health and the Ministry by families and care providers. One of the actions includes the establishment of the Office of the Seniors' Advocate to ensure concerns and complaints are responded to and resolved in a timely manner, including
end-of-life/palliative issues. Here is the link on the BCSeniors.ca website where the action plan can be found online: http://www.seniorsbc.ca/.

In April, 2012, palliative patients living at home across BC became eligible to receive the newly expanded After-Hours Palliative Nursing Service (AHPNS). This service gives palliative patients and their caregivers anywhere in BC telephone access to specialized nurses when their community nurse and/or physician may be unavailable. The AHPNS complements (and does not replace) existing palliative nursing services available during the day. The hours of operation are from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m. Pacific Time, seven days a week. Initially in Kelowna, Vancouver Community and Victoria, current after-hours palliative services will remain in place and palliative patients in those areas will not call the provincial AHPNS.

With regard to client fees, many palliative care services are funded through the health authorities, however; a portion of the fee for short term residential care is paid by the patient. In situations where the assessed client rate may result in serious financial hardship, a client may apply to the health authority for this fee to be waived.

British Columbia's policy document, A Provincial Framework for End-of-Life Care (May 2006) continues to provide direction to health authorities, health care providers and service delivery organizations as they plan and deliver end-of-life care.

The Ministry has also made significant investments in palliative care in recent years, including the introduction of new physician and specialist physician fee codes to support palliative and end-of-life care planning and advance care planning with patients. In addition, the Ministry is working collaboratively with the BC Medical Association, Impact BC and Home and Community Care nurses to deliver physician education in palliative care. These new initiatives are being well-received by the public and health care providers alike and support the Ministry's goal to ensure British Columbians have the majority of their health needs met by high quality primary and community based health care and support services.

The Ministry and the health authorities are diligently supporting individuals in end-of-life care planning and service delivery in BC.

B40 COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FOR SENIORS

WHEREAS access to community-based care for British Columbia's growing seniors' population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures in the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systematic issues in seniors' care and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care, inadequate care and inadequate coordination of services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors' care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is committed to ensuring that people are able to receive the majority of their health services in community settings. To build a flexible, responsive and sustainable health care system to serve the needs of people with chronic health conditions, including seniors, it is important to work collaboratively within each community to ensure housing and health care options are appropriate to the needs of seniors.

In February 2012, the Ministry released an action plan to ensure a more accessible, transparent and accountable approach to seniors' care. 'Improving Care for Seniors: An Action Plan' outlines concrete actions that the Ministry and partners are implementing over two to three years to improve home and community care services for seniors, and seniors' care throughout the health care system. The goal of the action plan is to provide seniors and their families with the information they need to access services in a timely and informed way, ensure consistent and fair delivery of care, and protect vulnerable seniors from abuse and neglect. Completed actions include:

- establishment of province wide after hours palliative tele-nursing support for clients at home;
- development of advance care planning information and tools to help prepare for future health care needs;
- supporting end-of-life care training to strengthen family physicians and home health teams;
- consultation with the public about the future role and function of the seniors' advocate;
- launch of a single provincial phone line to report concerns about care;
- development of clinical guidelines for frail seniors in emergency and hospitals; and

- increased focus of residential facility inspectors on high risk areas.

The Province provided $15 million to the United Way of the Lower Mainland to expand non-medical home support services in up to 65 communities by 2015. This key commitment from the Seniors Action Plan will be called Better at Home and will build on the Community Action for Seniors' Independence (CASI) pilots that offer seniors in five communities access to services such as housekeeping, transportation, yard work and friendly visiting.

The Seniors Action Plan also included a commitment to provide $1.4 million to the BC Association of Community Response Networks to increase CRN activities in up to 100 locations throughout BC by 2015. CRNs are local networks of service providers, agencies and volunteers that work to build community capacity to address and prevent adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect.

The Ministry's strategic direction also includes implementation of Integrated Primary and Community Care (IPCC). This goal is built around attachment to a family physician working with the health care team, as well as links to local community services to more effectively meet the needs of British Columbians. IPCC will focus on high needs priority populations across the continuum of both service delivery and patient health status. This initiative is closely associated with the province's commitment that all British Columbians, who choose to, will have access to a family physician by 2015.

Over the past several years, the health authorities have expanded home health services by introducing many innovative care options, including quick response teams, ambulatory clinics, home monitoring, and integrating health networks to better link primary care physicians with home health teams. The Ministry continues to work with the health authorities, the BC Medical Association and community groups to expand on this work.

Additionally, on February 1, 2010, the Government of BC introduced a more equitable rate structure to reduce the burden on low-income seniors and support ongoing improvements to the residential care system, ensuring residential care remains sustainable and accessible to all British Columbians. The health authorities are required to use the increased revenue raised to directly improve residential care, which may include: increased staffing levels for nursing and other health professional services, staff education, investment in specialized services for distinct populations such as dementia and palliative care, and the amount of one-on-one care provided to clients. Each health authority will take a different approach to these investments based on prior investments and the unique issues in their region. However, all incremental revenue, estimated by health authorities at $78 million, is being invested to directly improve the care of clients within the residential care system.

BC's minimum room and board rates are among the lowest in Canada. Ministry funding to health authorities has increased steadily since 2001/02 and is reflected in health authority spending in home and community care from $1.57 billion (in 2001/02) to $2.4

billion in 2010/11, almost 54 percent. In 2010/11 health authorities increased spending for residential care by $45 million.

B41 FUNDING FOR ENHANCED SENIORS' OUTREACH & PREVENTATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and wellbeing of seniors exists at the municipal level through neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres and community centres;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and health prevention programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and to support better coordination among existing services.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province is continuing to support a variety of programs and initiatives in communities across the province aimed at enhancing information and outreach to seniors and strengthening the ability of older British Columbians to remain healthy, active and connected in their communities.

In February 2012, the Province released Improving Care for BC Seniors: An Action Plan (Action Plan) to address concerns expressed by seniors, their families and care providers about seniors' care in BC. Under the "Information" theme in the Action Plan, several commitments were made to improve access to the information that seniors and their families need in order to make informed choices about care. These include:

- The www.SeniorsBC.ca website September 2012 to improve access to information on home and community health care programs and other services, including information about facility inspection reports, care and support options, how to access health care services, eligibility criteria for publicly subsidized services, wait times, urgency criteria, patient charges, and hardship waivers;

- Provided advance care planning information and tools in April 2012 to help older adults prepare for their future health care needs;

- Provided information to assist seniors and their families to understand and live with dementia in October 2012, which included support from the Alzheimer Society's First Link program; and,

- Updated the BC Seniors' Guide in December 2012. The Guide – a popular print publication includes information about government programs and services – is available in web and print formats in English, French, Chinese and Punjabi, and will be distributed to seniors' centres, libraries, ServiceBC offices and other community-level organizations throughout BC.

The Action Plan also includes a commitment to consult with the public on the role of a new Seniors' Advocate. The Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted an in-person consultation in nine communities from May to July 2012 and engaged with hundreds of seniors, caregivers and stakeholders to seek their input on the future role and function of the Seniors' Advocate. MoH also held focus groups and consultations with seniors and stakeholders to support the development of a provincial elder abuse prevention, identification and response strategy that will be released in early 2013. Through these and other public consultation processes, government is hearing about the needs, concerns and priorities of seniors in all regions of the province.

At the same time, the Province is supporting communities in exploring new and innovative ways of reaching out to seniors and promoting seniors' independence and community participation. For example, as part of the Action Plan, the Province provided $15 million to the United Way of the Lower Mainland to expand non-medical home support services in up to 60 communities over the next 3 years. This new program, to be called Better at Home, builds on the Community Action for Seniors' Independence pilot program. Through this pilot program, local agencies in five communities have received funding to provide a range of non-medical home support services such as housekeeping, transportation and yard work, to help seniors remain living in their own homes. Better at Home will build on this pilot program.

Also, as part of the Action Plan, the Province provided $1.4 million to the BC Association of Community Response Networks to increase Community Response Networks activities in up to 100 locations throughout BC by 2015. Community Response Networks are local networks of service providers, agencies and volunteers that work to build the whole community capacity to address and prevent elder abuse, neglect and self-neglect.

MoH collaborates with UBCM and other partners to encourage and support local governments to take action to make their communities more welcoming and accessible to people of all ages through its Age-friendly BC Initiative. This includes grants for local governments of up to $20,000 for age-friendly planning and projects. The funding was originally provided from UBCM's Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative through a one-time $2 million grant from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to assist local governments to prepare for an aging population. MoH has augmented that amount to continue to support local governments with additional grants to UBCM of $500,000 in 2007; $1,050,000 in 2011; and $200,000 in 2012.

Since 2007, a total of 117 local governments have been supported in age-friendly planning and implementation through grants from the UBCM Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative program. Most recently, in December 2012, 27 local governments were notified that they will be awarded grants of up to $20,000 for age-friendly planning and projects in 2013. This will benefit 14 new communities that had not been funded under this program since 2007. In February 2012, MoH and UBCM awarded age-friendly planning and project grants to 52 local governments, which included an additional 22 communities that had not previously been supported.

In the summer of 2012 nine local governments – Duncan, Esquimalt, Metchosin, Saanich, Revelstoke, West Vancouver, Surrey, Sechelt, and White Rock – received Age-friendly BC Recognition for their efforts to support older residents to remain healthy and active in the community. These communities have received an Age-friendly BC award poster and a $1,000 grant to create a legacy project or celebration. The Age-friendly Recognition program is administered by BC Healthy Communities.

In June 2011, MoH provided a $3 million grant to the University of Victoria to design and promote innovations in technological supports for seniors to enhance their independence. The grant supports the Connect for Care project – a partnership between CanAssist (University of Victoria), Tyze Personal Networks and the PLAN Institute for Caring Citizenship – to develop a fully accessible suite of online tools providing sustainable patient-centered care for frail elderly, adults with chronic conditions, and people with mild-moderate dementia in a variety of settings.

B42 MSP PREMIUMS FOR SENIORS

WHEREAS Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums can be a hardship for seniors on a fixed income;

AND WHEREAS raising health care monies through the provincial income tax system is a fairer process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to end MSP premiums for seniors and to bear any associated costs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Medical Services Plan (MSP) is an important component of health services funding in British Columbia and helps ensure a link between health care and its costs. The majority of British Columbians contribute towards covering their health care costs through the MSP premiums.

Fully exempting seniors from MSP premiums could be viewed as inequitable. For example, fully exempting seniors would mean seniors with incomes over $100,000 would pay nothing, while many young families with children with incomes lower than that would pay premiums.

To ensure the MSP Program is fair to all British Columbians, premium assistance is available to lower income individuals and families, including seniors. Premium assistance levels vary based on income level and family type. For example, to reflect higher living costs, seniors and families with children are eligible to receive premium assistance at higher income levels. Premium rates and assistance thresholds are periodically adjusted to reflect the higher cost of providing health care and to ensure that those most in need are protected.

When all taxes are considered, British Columbians, including seniors, generally have one of the lowest tax burdens in the country.

B43 HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

WHEREAS:

- the provincial government is cutting funding and supports for adults with developmental disabilities, resulting in the closure of group homes and mounting waiting lists for services;
- these group homes form a vital and necessary part of the housing continuum that has won broad support from members of the public at large, families of adults with developmental disabilities and the communities in which they are located;
- we support the creation of new supportive housing options to provide appropriate options for parents and their adult children with developmental disabilities; and
- the BC Community Living Action Group, which represents more than 65 affected agencies and organizations, thousands of families, and adults with developmental disabilities, has called for an end to service cuts and closure of group homes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to end funding cuts, implement a moratorium on the closure of group homes and provide sufficient financial resources both to maintain this vital housing resource and address growing waiting lists.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development

The Province recognizes the concerns individuals and families may have as supports for adults with developmental disabilities evolve. This evolution is based on research, service delivery requests, and demand from families requesting different options.

During the 1980s, people with developmental disabilities left institutions for group homes (staffed residential) in community. Many younger individuals now want a greater degree of independence and are moving to other settings, such as home share. Group homes now typically support individuals needing a higher level of care. In the future, it is expected there will be less reliance on staffed residential resources and more on diverse and typical living arrangements that facilitate more independence and community participation.

The Province has committed that unless there are extenuating circumstances that cannot be mitigated, individuals living in a staffed residential homes will not be moved without consultation and agreement both from the individual and their family.

The Province is providing $144 million in funding over the next three years, plus $36 million being held in contingency, to improve services to individuals and families. Community Living BC's 2012/13 budget is $748.1 million; 93 percent of that budget goes directly to support individuals and families in community.

B44 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING IN RURAL & REMOTE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS ample and varied housing stock is an essential part of a healthy and prosperous community;

AND WHEREAS housing for the hard-to-house and transitional housing is scarce in many rural and remote communities in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide ongoing operational funding for support services for the hard-to-house and transitional housing in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes that housing for the hard-to-house and transitional housing is a significant concern in many rural and remote communities in British Columbia.

The Province, through the British Columbia Housing Management Commission, subsidizes units throughout the province for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Outreach workers in 40 communities connect people with permanent housing and a range of services through the Homeless Outreach and Aboriginal Outreach programs. The Province, through BC Housing, has created 152 units of supportive housing for the hard-to-house in rural and remote communities since April 2009.

In addition, services funded by the Province through community-based contractors in 77 communities provide women and their dependent children who are fleeing violence with housing, food, crisis intervention, and referrals.

By working with local organizations to identify new housing and service needs, the Province will continue to provide a variety of housing options.

B45 CELLULAR SERVICE

WHEREAS Highway 37 and 37A is the major corridor in Northwest British Columbia, and sees large volumes of commercial, general and tourist traffic travelling through remote areas that are without cellular coverage;

AND WHEREAS many small rural and remote communities in British Columbia are still without cellular coverage, and the absence of these services poses a hazard to all who travel through remote areas and affects the economic development of such regions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to continue with its commitment and ensure that cell phone coverage is available to the travelling public and industrial traffic throughout the province by the end of 2012.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government

The Government of British Columbia is committed to the strategy of leveraging its presence in the telecommunications market to encourage private sector expansion of Internet and cellular coverage in rural and remote areas of the province lacking these important services. As a result of this strategy, the Province and TELUS signed the Connecting British Columbia Agreement in the summer of 2011.

Through this agreement, TELUS is committed to extending 1716 kilometres of cellular coverage along unconnected segments of primary and secondary highways by the end of 2016. Many of the unconnected segments identified in the agreement lie within the jurisdictions of North Central Local Government Association members.

Complementing this strategy, the Province takes every opportunity to represent the interests of rural British Columbians to the federal government, which regulates the telecommunications industry. The Province advocates for federal policies that benefit all of its citizens equitably. It continues to urge the federal government to consult with the provinces and all levels of local government as it contemplates reforms to existing telecommunications policy and legislation.

B46 MECHANICAL INSULATION

WHEREAS the proper application of mechanical insulation including the material used, thickness, and installation techniques, has been shown to improve the energy efficiency, reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, and provide other benefits for both new and retrofitted building;

AND WHEREAS given possible code changes in the near future, it is a timely opportunity to advocate to the provincial government to consider including additional information and requirements regarding mechanical insulation in any code updates:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that any future updates or amendments to the BC Building Code include specific, up-to-date requirements on mechanical insulation, including the reproduction of any specifications, such as thickness tables, that may be referenced from other sources, and also include reference to mechanical insulation best practice standards.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The BC Building Code sets the minimum standard for energy efficiency of new construction. Guidelines for insulation of mechanical systems are currently provided in the ASHRAE standard, as referenced in the BC Building Code Division B Sentence 6.2.3.2.(3).

The Province is considering increasing energy efficiency requirements for all new buildings and substantial building renovations, which may include mechanical insulation.

The suitability of a requirement for mechanical insulation for all new buildings would need to be evaluated against multiple criteria including but not limited to:

- cost of construction;
- benefit to climate change mitigation;
- technical feasibility; and,
- enforcement feasibility.

B47 RENEWAL OF PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS all local governments in British Columbia benefit from the funding and expertise of Heritage BC, and other heritage focused organizations and initiatives, to protect unique heritage resources and support community projects;

AND WHEREAS heritage conservation is vital to maintain a sense of place distinctive to each community that is a positive investment in the local economy and a stimulus to tourism:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to restore the Heritage Branch budget, and to implement Heritage BC's call for renewal of provincial heritage programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province appreciates the important role that communities play in conserving British Columbia's historic places. Planning staff are allocated to provide advice and training to local governments throughout BC. In addition, the Province has increased the Heritage Branch budget allocation by $21 million over three years for the Provincial Heritage Properties for operations, deferred maintenance, and public health and safety.

The Province recognizes that local governments benefit from the role of Heritage BC and other heritage organizations in providing expertise and funding for heritage conservation. In response to calls for provincial leadership on the issue, British Columbia has provided funding support to Heritage BC in developing a new strategy and is working with them to consider the most effective business model for the organization in the future.

The Province continues to work towards solutions that are effective, efficient and build on the achievements made by heritage-focused public organizations, local governments, business and industry towards strengthening heritage conservation in British Columbia.

B48 REGULATION OF PUBLIC WATER SERVICES

WHEREAS the successful delivery of a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union (EU) requires the federal government to negotiate full access to procurement to sub-national governments including local governments, social boards, and other provincial agencies;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada is fully committed to preserve the right of all Canadians to safe water services and believes that water in its natural state is not considered a good pr product and, therefore, remains outside the scope of Canada's trade agreements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal government, through the provincial government and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to enact strong domestic policy to preserve the right of provinces, territories and local governments to provide safe water services for the collection, purification and distribution of water, including the provision of drinking water, water management, and waste water management for Canadians as a public service;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government identify and invest needed funding to support sub-national governments in carrying out this mandate.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

The Province has conducted ongoing consultations with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) as the Canada – European Union negotiations proceed. Through these consultations, the Province has been made aware of UBCM's position on water safety and the privatization of water-related services.

Canada's international trade agreements do not prevent governments from setting standards to ensure that Canadians have access to safe drinking water. In addition, Canada's international trade agreements do not force governments to privatize, contract out or deregulate water-related services. All companies operating in Canada, whether domestic or foreign, must respect Canadian laws and regulations. As negotiations progress, the Province will continue to bring forward UBCM's concerns to the federal government.

B50 BC CHILDCARE PLAN

WHEREAS the UBCM has consistently endorsed resolutions prioritizing affordable, accessible early learning and childcare;

AND WHEREAS with only enough spaces for 20% of BC children and fees as high as $1,915 per month, access to high quality, affordable early childcare and learning is a crisis for many working families and a concern that thousands of British Columbians have expressed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government work to improve access to high quality, affordable early child care and learning and list it among their top priorities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Province of British Columbia is committed to supporting children and families by a strong network of coordinated, family-centered, culturally relevant and responsive early childhood development and child care services.

The Province recognizes that all children require nurturing and enriching experiences throughout their early years in order to thrive and reach their full potential.

The Province continues to support high quality affordable child care while maintaining choice for parents and has increased the number of child-care spaces in British Columbia by nearly 40 percent since 2003/04, with more than 100,000 licensed child care spaces receiving ongoing government funding.

The Province continues to examine strategies that will provide families with a range of accessible, quality child care and early learning opportunities. The Families First Agenda for BC seeks citizen input on the best approaches to early childhood development and care. In 2012, the Ministry of Children and Family Development hosted a child care forum and an early childhood development forum to seek input from stakeholders. The input from citizens' will build on the feedback received from stakeholders and will support ministry work moving forward.

The Province is focused on finding ways to meet the unique needs of British Columbia's children and families and will continue to work closely with other ministries, parents and communities to create a strong foundation for early childhood development, early learning and child care.

B52 BC BUILDING CODE

WHEREAS entrances to common areas (hallways, common rooms, lobbies, etc.) of multi-unit residential buildings not equipped with automatic door openers present a barrier to access by residents with mobility issues;

AND WHEREAS under the current BC Building Code, access to the main entrance and parking areas is currently considered for those using a wheelchair, but does not require electric door openers that are crucial to people using walkers, scooters, or with other health concerns that restrict accessibility:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Division B - Part 3 of the BC Building Code be amended to include a minimum standard of accessibility in all entranceways and shared spaces for all new multi-unit development which includes electronic door openers that allow elevator access to all building levels, including parking areas.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The BC Building Code sets the minimum standard for new construction and is based on the model National Building Code of Canada. While Section 3.8 Building Requirements for Persons with Disabilities is unique to British Columbia, the language that determines which types of buildings must provide automatic doors is developed at the national level.

Suggestions for changes to the minimum acceptable level of accessibility in all Division B - Part 3 buildings are most appropriately submitted to the National Research Council.

B53 REQUIREMENTS TO EXEMPT NECESSARY WATER WORKS PROJECTS FROM ELECTOR APPROVAL

WHEREAS local government is mandated to provide safe, clean, reliable drinking water as an essential component of a healthy community;

AND WHEREAS the financing of most major water works projects will realistically require borrowing liabilities of over five years;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* requires elector approval of any liability over five years in duration, thereby requiring a process of acquiring elector approval and creating unnecessary delays in essential projects, exposing the public to ongoing risk and cost without commensurate public benefit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to adopt legislation to amend the *Community Charter* to provide for the exemption of obtaining elector approval for necessary water works projects if the projects have been previously approved by the Inspector of Municipalities through a Master Water Management Plan.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Currently, the only exemption from obtaining electoral approval for necessary water works projects is provided through the Municipal Liabilities Regulation (Community Charter);

Drinking water protection orders — installation of treatment works, s.8:

Approval of the electors is not required under section 175 (2) [liabilities under agreements] or 180 (1) [loan authorization bylaws] of the *Community Charter* if

(a) the liability is to be incurred for the purpose of complying with an order of a drinking water officer under the Drinking Water Protection Act that expressly requires the municipality to install treatment works, and
(b) the inspector of municipalities approves the proposed liability.

And the Regional District Liabilities Regulation (*Local Government Act*);

Drinking water protection orders — installation of treatment works, s.4

Elector approval is not required if

(a) the liability is to be incurred for the purpose of complying with an order of a drinking water officer under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* that expressly requires the regional district to install treatment works, and
(b) the inspector of municipalities approves the proposed liability.

All other instances require electoral assent. The rationale for this is where a local government is entering into a long-term debt, the term of that debt is in place for a longer term than the given council, and as such, a broader mandate should be obtained from the electorate. It also provides the electorate an opportunity to identify what level of support should be given (e.g. different options and costs).

While there is no current legislation that provides for an exemption from obtaining elector approval for necessary water works projects, the Ministry is interested in further discussions on how the development of a Master Water Management Plan could be utilized analogous to the development of a Liquid Waste Management Plan, in developing a long term plan with public participation/consultation, that could potentially lead to an exemption from obtaining electoral approval for the works identified in the plan. These discussions would have to also include Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health.

B54 SERVICES OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITY

WHEREAS Section 13(3) of the *Community Charter* provides that the municipal powers, duties and functions provided under this or any other *Act* in relation to the service may be exercised in an area outside the municipality when a municipality provides service to that area;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* do not provide clarity and expressly stated authority to levy taxes, impose Development Cost Charges or to control crown land parks dedicated by subdivision within the service area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to make the necessary legislative changes to provide certainty and expressly stated authority to levy taxes, impose Development Cost Charges and to control park land dedicated by subdivision in the service area when service is provided outside the municipality under Section 13 of the *Community Charter*.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

A municipality may provide services in an area outside its boundary, with the consent of the regional district board, under s.13 of the Community Charter. Section 13 is most commonly applied to services provided outside of boundaries such as water or other utilities.

Section 13 gives a municipality the authority to recover service costs directly from recipients outside of the municipality through user fees (i.e. utility bills), but does not give the municipality the authority to recover costs by directly levying taxes on properties outside of the municipality in the rural areas. This is the role of the Surveyor of Taxes, who requisitions taxes for all services in rural areas. The concept of taxation authority outside ones jurisdiction would have broader implications for local governments. It is a fundamental principle of government that taxation of citizens is matched with elected representation. Extending taxation outside municipal boundaries would be contrary to that principle.

With respect to Development Cost Charges (DCCs), the amount of a DCC is determined based on the capital plan of a particular local government and is paid at building permit or subdivision. A municipality would not have control over subdivision applications and building permits in the rural area, and the capital planning requirements attendant to that.

Legislation currently allows for DCCs to be levied in electoral area by the regional district for this purpose, as well as for any necessary taxation through a service area, filling this need. The authority to have municipalities levy taxes and collect DCCs outside their boundary is not supported.

B55 RESORT MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS regional districts are a legal and accepted form of local government in BC elected by rural communities to represent an manage the land-use and development interests of local taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the creation of a resort municipality within an electoral area and appointment of a council directed by a resort developer is contrary to the principles of democratic government and sets an undesirable precedent:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development to consider a governance structure for mountain resort municipalities that includes elected representatives responsible for land-use decisions for a permanent population of at least 200 people;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM does not support the concept of an unelected body making land use decisions for an area with no population.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The *Local Government Act* was amended in 2012 to clarify existing government policy in relation to the authority to incorporate a mountain resort municipality whether or not there are residents in the area at the time of the incorporation. The 2012 amendments ensure the effectiveness of the 2007 *Local Government Act* amendments related to the incorporation of mountain resort municipalities in certain circumstances.

Municipal incorporation of an area prior to the arrival of residents is not new in British Columbia. In fact, many existing British Columbia communities were incorporated prior to having stable resident populations, such as Tumbler Ridge, Elkford and Logan Lake. While those communities were incorporated in relation to resource development, government supports the use of a similar approach to enhance mountain resort development.

Incorporating an area prior to the arrival of residents means that a mayor and council need to be appointed by government until such time as a stable resident population is established within the incorporation area. Appointments to council have been used previously in British Columbia in several resource based communities and in all of those communities, appointed individuals were replaced with elected council members as the communities grew and stable resident populations were established.

While the concerns expressed in this resolution relating to the form of such an incorporation are noted, government remains of the view that incorporating an area prior to the arrival of residents can, in limited circumstances, support the early development of mountain resorts by providing the strong foundations necessary for well planned resort communities with high quality services and public amenities.

B56 EQUITY IN FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES

WHEREAS municipalities in British Columbia who choose to establish their own municipal forces pay 100% of the costs of policing;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in British Columbia who obtain policing services from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) through agreements between the federal and provincial governments pay either 70% (for municipalities with a population of between 5,000 and 15,000) or 90% (for municipalities with a population in excess of 15,000) of the total expenditures for policing, excluding overtime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to change the process for funding municipal police services to increase provincial funding for municipal police services so that municipalities with their own police forces receive the same subsidies as those who contract with the RCMP.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

Municipalities who contract with the RCMP for the provision of police services receive a 10 or 30 per cent benefit on their contract policing costs from the federal government. The basis of the contract policing cost sharing arrangement is the recognition that the federal government receives a benefit from being able to redeploy RCMP resources from a contract community to deal with national emergencies or major events.

The Premier's platform, The Families First Agenda for Change, calls for the development of a strategic plan for policing that sets out goals, targets, and performance standards. As part of the development of the strategic plan, the Ministry of Justice is holding a focus group to look at funding models for the provision of police services.

It should be noted that the government currently provides funding to local governments through a variety of sources and programs, including the transfer of 100 per cent of traffic fine revenues to local governments for community policing, crime prevention and other initiatives to help make communities safer.

B57 RESPONDING SAFELY TO HOARDING

WHEREAS the condition commonly known as hoarding is becoming more prevalent within communities;

AND WHEREAS first responders and other visitors to the residence of a hoarder are placed at risk due to the condition of the premises;

AND WHEREAS local governments have little or no authority to enforce compliance with health and safety standards when a building is owner occupied:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the provincial government to establish legislation that will enable local governments to address safety concerns in situations where hoarding has created hazards for the residents, first responders and the neighbourhood.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Under section 8 of the *Community Charter*, municipalities are authorized to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to various nuisances including unsanitary conditions on property. Accompanying regulatory authority in section 16 of the *Community Charter* allows municipal officials to enter onto or into property to inspect to ensure that the requirements of the bylaw are being met - and if they aren't being met, the municipality may take action itself to fulfill the requirements and recover the costs from the owner.

Under section 74 of the *Community Charter*, a municipality may declare a building or other structure to be a nuisance (if council considers it to be so dilapidated or unclean as to be offensive to the community) and then impose requirements (e.g. to bring it up to a standard specified in the bylaw). If the situation is not remedied, the municipality may take remedial action and recover the costs from the owner. There is due process that the municipality must follow - but if followed, the owner must comply, or the municipality can undertake the necessary works and recover its costs.

B59 AUTHORITY TO REMOVE GANG MEMBERS FROM LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS

WHEREAS the Lower Mainland of British Columbia has witnessed unprecedented gang violence over the last several years, often taking place at licensed establishments which are plagued by problems related to the presence of patrons who are gang members;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has successfully amended their *Gaming and Liquor Act* to include a definition of a person involved in gang activity and also provides authority for police to remove an individual based on the formulation of articulable cause including operational experience and a comprehensive overview of the situational factors presented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia enhance the present *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* legislation to provide police with explicit authority to determine risk to the public from known gang members based on operational experience and situational factors and facilitate the removal of those individuals from licensed establishments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

British Columbia remains committed to creating safer communities and stemming the tide of gang violence. The last thing our citizens want is to be caught in the middle of a violent incident. The Province has successfully devised strategies to prevent the involvement of organized crime in the ownership and management of licensed establishments.

Experience in other provinces shows that legislation to remove gang members from licensed establishments must be approached cautiously given the potential for Charter of Rights and Freedoms challenges. In Alberta legislation has been effective in mitigating outward displays of gang affiliation. Police follow specific protocols and procedures prior to a known gang member being removed. The Province is reviewing whether to enact this type of legislation in British Columbia.

B60 911 POCKET CALLS

WHEREAS the significant rise in cell phone use has resulted in a rise in the number of misdialled or accidental calls to 911;

AND WHEREAS these so-called "pocket dials" are a significant drain on resources, both from a 911 call centre standpoint, and also in terms of police operational resources, to determine if the caller is in danger:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- the federal government require that the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) who represents cellular and satellite carriers and companies that produce cellular products/services impose better safeguards against inadvertent or unintended 911 calls;
- the federal government require that Telus, Rogers, Bell and any other cellular service providers take a more active role in public education around accidental 911 calls by messaging their clients with this information and the limitations mobile devices have in terms of location information provided to 911;
- the provincial government give consideration to establishing an awareness campaign providing the public information on how to prevent accidental calls to 911 as has been done in the Province of Ontario; and
- the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be requested to also lobby for these changes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice is aware of concerns regarding accidental or "pocket calls" to 911.

BC, in collaboration with Alberta and Public Safety Canada, has recently surveyed the operational communications centres of municipal police and RCMP regarding issues with 911 calls from mobile phones, including "pocket calls", and their impacts on public safety and the delivery of police services. Using this provincial data, Public Safety Canada is now preparing a report that will be brought forward to the national forum "Assistant Deputy Ministers of Policing Issues" (ADM-PI) for review. It is anticipated the ADM-PI will make a submission to the Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission recommending better safeguards against inadvertent or unintended 911 calls.

Ministry staff will review the Ontario awareness campaign for consideration of a similar approach in BC.

B61 STREAMFLOW DATA FROM INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

WHEREAS established run of the river independent power projects (IPPs) in British Columbia monitor and can share real-time streamflow data with the provincial government without detriment to the proprietary interests of the IPP;

AND WHEREAS real-time streamflow data is vital to local authorities engaged in flood management and other public safety operations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations shall require each IPP in British Columbia, as a condition of licensing and once operations have been established, to share real-time streamflow data with the British Columbia River Forecast Centre for the public safety benefit of local authorities in the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province currently requires streamflow data from water licensees for purposes relevant to the operation of the independent power project, such as ensuring minimum instream flows for fish during critical periods. While this data is important for that specific purpose, it would be of limited value to the River Forecast Centre for flood forecasting purposes.

Run-of-river Independent Power Projects (IPPs) are typically located on smaller, steep mountain streams, making the collection of real-time data challenging and unreliable. Flow data for the purposes of flood warning are principally needed on larger watercourses, where populations and structures could be under threat. Given the limited value of the data for flood mitigation, the province is not currently planning to require IPPs to share this information with the River Forecast Centre but will continue to look at other ways to increase our ability to accurately predict flood hazards.

B62 FLOOD MITIGATION APPROVAL

WHEREAS most flood mitigation construction projects (e.g. dykes, bank protection, sediment management) require environmental approvals such as the *BC Water Act*, *Federal Fisheries Act*, and *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;

AND WHEREAS environmental approval requirements for flood mitigations works are unclear, may change over time, and are applied inconsistently by regulatory agencies throughout the Province, resulting in project delays and additional costs to local governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province to coordinate a Joint Technical Working Group with representatives from senior governments, local government and First Nations to develop clear and consistent policies for the implementation of environmental legislation and associated approvals.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The construction of flood mitigation projects (i.e., dikes and sediment management) is a critical part of an integrated approach to reducing flood risks in BC.

Each proposal for diking or sediment removal is referred to a number of agencies and First Nations for comment and input, including the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Project proponents are responsible for obtaining all permits and approvals. Local government projects have to follow the same legal and approval requirements as any other projects in or adjacent to water courses. The Province recognizes that obtaining environmental approvals for these projects can result in delays and unexpected costs.

The Federal Government has recently made significant changes to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and the *Fisheries Act* as a result of Bill C-38. For example, a screening level environmental assessment under *CEAA* will no longer be required for many projects; however, other environmental permits and approvals will still be required to minimize any adverse project impacts. While details of the new regulatory regime are still emerging, it is anticipated that the changes will reduce approval delays while ensuring environmental protection.

The Province is always interested in ensuring that processes are streamlined and consistently applied provincially. It is recognized that each circumstance is specific to a location. The type of coordination sought by UBCM is already in practice for specific complex projects where it is most needed, including the Fraser River Sediment Management Technical Committee, Fitzsimmons Creek Committee and the Vedder River Management Committee.

As the new process under the federal legislation becomes evident, the Province will continue to encourage flood management practices and policies that protect and

enhance the natural environment. This work is supported through the Flood Protection Program and provincial staff participation on joint technical working groups for some of the larger, more complex flood mitigation projects.

B63 PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for development, improvement and augmentation of cycling infrastructure, including by not limited to:

- frequent sweeping of bike lanes (2011-B19);
- increased width and refurbished road shoulder to accommodate cycling (2010-B16, 2007-B14, 2007-B99);
- a BC Cycling Development Program (2010-B17);
- revenue sharing for cycling infrastructure intersecting provincial highways (2009-B83);
- bicycle lane funding (2007-B100, 2006-B140); and
- infrastructure for non-greenhouse gas emitting transportation (2006-B110);

AND WHEREAS rural cycling infrastructure strengthens communities by:

- increasing the safety of cycling on rural roads;
- supporting the growth of cycle tourism;
- addressing local climate change challenges;
- providing transportation and recreation alternatives; and
- establishing links with existing urban and regional cycling networks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC invest in cycling infrastructure in order to accelerate the availability and broaden the range of cycling opportunities for commuter, recreational, and competitive cyclists living in and visiting rural and urban areas.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province is committed to investing in cycling infrastructure as part of a safe, efficient transportation system that reduces traffic congestion and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Cycling investments support our commitment to improving the health of British Columbians by encouraging active lifestyles and viable transportation options for BC families.

Since 2001, the Province has committed over $148 million in cycling infrastructure, creating new bicycle lanes and trails in over 75 communities. This includes the development of several major cycling trails, such as the:

- North Shore Spirit Trail and the Central Valley Greenway in the lower mainland;
- UBCO connector trail in Kelowna;
- E&N Rails with Trail project in the Capital Regional District; and
- Tyner Boulevard trail to UNBC in Prince George.

In 2012, the Province provided $7.25 million to cost share with local governments for

cycling infrastructure projects through our BikeBC program.

The Province is also committed to integrating cycling infrastructure where possible as we undertake new construction and improvements on provincial highways.

B64 UPGRADES TO COMMUNITY AIRSTRIPS

WHEREAS small communities with airstrips that are necessary for the use of private, emergency and small unscheduled commercial traffic have no means to access funding through the Air Transportation Assistance Program without being recognized as a commercial airport;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary for those airports to be maintained and upgraded in order to keep their listing with Transport Canada and to attract commercial users;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments provide funding sources to assist small communities in upgrades that will ensure long term emergency access and increased economic activity at isolated community airstrips in BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province does not own or operate airports. Facilities are owned and operated either by local governments or by local not-for-profit authorities.

The Province understands the importance of small community airports to provide essential and emergency services to British Columbians.

The Province has invested over $65 million into airport infrastructure over the last 10 years with the Transportation Partnerships Program (TPP) and through various joint Canada-B.C. funding initiatives.

While the TPP is currently not funded for new projects, its status will be reviewed as the province's financial situation improves.

B65 LONG TERM TRANSLINK FUNDING MODEL

WHEREAS TransLink is responsible for regional transit, cycling and commuting options, and the major road network for the Metro Vancouver area which is home to approximately 50% of British Columbia's population;

AND WHEREAS TransLink is unable to generate sufficient funding to meet the needs of this growing area through its current funding model;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide a permanent and appropriate long term funding model for TransLink.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province recognizes the need for on-going sufficient funding to expand transit service in Metro Vancouver to meet the travel needs of residents and businesses and to support Provincial Transit Plan and regional transportation goals.

The Province believes that if the citizens of Metro Vancouver are asked to contribute more funding for regional transportation, they should understand what they are being asked to pay for and support the proposed funding sources. The Province has requested the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to: (a) develop a concise vision for public transportation in Metro Vancouver; (b) identify preferred funding sources that are affordable for families, are regionally sourced, avoid adverse effects on the economy, and capture a share of the benefits that arise from transportation investments in Metro Vancouver; (c) together with TransLink, engage the public on the vision and funding sources; (d) formalize a request to the Province for specific funding mechanisms; and (e) establish a clear schedule and milestones to guide the implementation of the vision and the funding sources.

Based on the above conditions, the Province will continue to work with the Mayors' Council to develop sustainable long-term funding solutions that will allow TransLink to improve services to meet the long term needs of Metro Vancouver residents.

B66 TAXABLE OCCUPIERS OF HOSPITALS

WHEREAS for profit businesses located within hospital premises who enjoyed benefit from the hospital exempt status in 2010 continue to do so until 2015 as established by the transition provisions described in the *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2011*;

AND WHEREAS the for profit businesses at these locations consume the services provided by host municipalities without making a contribution to local government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the transition provisions from the *Budget Measures Implementation Act*, 2011, to render taxable any for-profit business located on land or within properties held by a health authority, effective as of 2012.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

As noted in the resolution, the Province addressed the issue of property tax disparities with respect to businesses located on health authority and university properties, compared to similar businesses located in privately owned properties in Budget 2011. With those changes, new businesses located on health authority and university properties immediately became taxable. But businesses located on such properties which were exempted from taxation in the 2010 tax year continue to be exempt through the 2015 tax year. The only exception is where there is a change in the occupier of the exempted property. For example, if an exempt business shuts down and a new for-profit business operation commences in the same area, the new business will be taxable.

The resolution requests a shortening of the five-year transition period for existing businesses on health authority properties. Shortening the length of the transition period so soon after the original decision would be confusing and potentially disruptive to existing tenancy agreements.

B67 CELL SERVICE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

WHEREAS cell phone service providers do not pay a one percent payment in lieu of taxes to municipalities in accordance with section 353 of the *Local Government Act;*

AND WHEREAS all companies that provide a service within local governments should be treated equally and requisitioned for payment in lieu of taxes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a funding formula for cell phone providers to pay to local governments in lieu of taxes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Application of the one percent tax in section 353 of the *Local Government Act* to cell phone companies has not previously been considered by government. It will be discussed and reviewed with the Ministry of Finance which has responsibility for tax policy.

B68 BC HYDRO GRANT IN LIEU OF TAXES

WHEREAS BC Hydro pays a Grant in Lieu of property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the Grant in Lieu of property taxes does not compensate municipalities fairly for BC Hydro facilities within their communities;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada unanimous ruling on the *Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act* (15/06/2012) signals that the Government of Canada cannot arbitrarily set a value on its properties and must pay their taxes like any property owner;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Finance undertake a detailed review of the Supreme Court decision with a view towards its applicability with respect to the current BC Hydro Grant in Lieu policy.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Under the *Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act*, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services (Canada) has the discretion to determine what value, in his opinion, an assessment authority would attribute to a property as the basis for computing the amount of any real property tax that would be applicable to that property if it were taxable. This value is the basis for payments in lieu of taxes made by the federal government.

In Halifax (Regional Municipality) v. Canada (Public Works and Government Services) the Supreme Court of Canada held that the Minister of Public Works and Government Services exercise of his discretion in determining the value of specific land within the Halifax Regional Municipality was unreasonable in the circumstances of the case.

This decision has no applicability to the provincial government policy under which BC Hydro pays grants in lieu of property taxes. Where BC Hydro is required to pay grants based on the value of land (i.e. with respect to its office and commercial assets) the grants must be paid based on the assessed value of the land established by the independent British Columbia Assessment Authority.

B69 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

WHEREAS small rural and urban local governments are struggling to maintain basic operational services of water, sewer, and roads, while trying to deal with hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure deficit, as well as the various other services they provide;

AND WHEREAS local governments are unable to fund operations, in any way other than yearly property tax increases, which is not sustainable, and hurts the ability of those local governments to attract and retain business and industry investment to their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and FCM petition the provincial and federal governments to establish a committee to discuss, establish, and implement a funding formula that ensures a percentage of taxes already collected from citizens, business and industry, at the provincial and federal level be given back to local governments to deal with the infrastructure deficit in their communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

After the onset of the world financial crisis in 2008, provincial revenues deteriorated significantly and created a significant operating deficit after several years of budget surpluses. In Budget 2009 (September Update), the government presented a 5-year plan to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14. We are still following this plan, and it has meant making very difficult fiscal decisions.

By restraining spending as we have, we are managing to keep income taxes among the lowest in Canada and have preserved our AAA credit rating, allowing us to pay lower interest rates on the funds we do borrow, which in turn helps to hold the line on taxation.

In Budget 2012, we projected a very modest $154 million surplus for 2013/14. On a budget of over $44 billion annually, this is a thin margin. With the current economic situation in Europe and elsewhere, achieving this target continues to be a challenge.

As a result, at this time government is not considering any new revenue-sharing programs, but certainly recognizes the fiscal issues being faced by local governments. Therefore we continue to encourage you to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and other ministries as appropriate to arrive at creative solutions to the infrastructure and related issues that you are facing.

B71 REINSTATEMENT OF DEDICATED LINE ITEM LIBRARY FUNDING IN BC

WHEREAS the libraries in British Columbia are important to the quality of life, lifelong learning and social fabric of the communities throughout the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Education's decision to subsume the provincial library budget line item into the overall education budget makes the assurance of future library funding more tenuous:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly advocate that the provincial government specifically recognize the broader mandate of libraries in British Columbia and reinstate the line item for library funding in the provincial budget.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

First and most importantly, provincial funding to BC public libraries remains stable. Budget 2012 included $42 million for this purpose over the Province's next three fiscal years. This means that libraries, federations and associations will receive their operating and targeted grants of $14 million in each of their fiscal years over this period (calendar years).

Representation of public libraries on a separate line-item in the Ministry of Education operating expense estimates was a holdover from the past, when public libraries were affiliated with a different ministry. Public library funding is now included in the education programs budget line that emphasizes and recognizes the important role public libraries play in supporting lifelong learning all across the Province. This change reflects the reality that public libraries are an essential part of Ministry operations and key to the transformation of education throughout the Province.

To further establish the Province's commitment to public libraries our 2012/13-2014/15 Ministry of Education Service Plan prominently features public libraries as an integral element of the Ministry's work, and how public libraries contribute to the BC Education Plan.

B72 WILDLIFE CONFLICT

WHEREAS there is no BC Wildlife Management Plan to deal with increasing wildlife conflict:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government establish a Provincial Wildlife Management Plan under the Ministry of Environment and address the shortage of Conservation Officers that currently exists.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes municipalities' desire to increase the level of funding to the Conservation Officer Service (COS). Government must also take into consideration the overall needs of the entire province. Factors such as service request volume, population growth, increased development on the land base and the overall numbers of Conservation Officers (COs) in the geographic area are all considered when staff deployments are assessed.

The COS will continue to maintain its current level of service delivery through officers working in the larger geographic area, as well as collaborative initiatives with other law enforcement agencies.

In 2003, the Ministry of Environment released the Wildlife–Human Conflict Prevention Strategy (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/strategy.pdf) focused on managing human-wildlife conflicts where they occur – in communities and regions. The strategy requires roles for local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), First Nations, businesses and individuals, along with the provincial government. All these partners must be responsible and accountable for their prevention actions.

In 2011/12 the COS received approximately 30,750 calls regarding human-wildlife conflicts. Of those calls, approximately 23,870 involved human-bear conflicts. These numbers are very similar to conflict levels from the previous year.

The COS is accountable and responsible for investigating all incidents involving wildlife attacks on humans led by a Predator Attack Incident Management Team using the Incident Command System. The system is designed to achieve the coordination necessary for an effective, efficient and provincially consistent response to predator attacks on humans. In the 2011 calendar year, 13 injuries were reported, 1 death and 1 incident post-mortem.

The COS also receives and investigates reports of livestock-predator interaction. If the loss is verified, a CO may also remove the predator(s) involved. Other people such as producers, trappers and hunters may also be authorized to remove predators through a license or permit if qualified.

COs assess each call based upon its own individual merits, giving consideration to the seriousness of the incident, time delay in calling, likelihood that the offending wildlife is still in the area, risk to people or property, or the availability of an officer in relation to distance required to attend.

A CO will usually attend a human-wildlife conflict call if:

- Dangerous wildlife appears to be sick, injured or is acting in an unusual manner.
- Dangerous wildlife is causing or has caused serious and ongoing property damage, and the landowner has taken reasonable steps to avoid conflict.
- Public safety is at risk due to a bear, or other large predator, becoming accustomed to human food or garbage and associates people with food (i.e., food conditioned).

B73 QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS the provincial government implemented the Riparian Areas Regulation to protect fish habitat for future generations, and the implementation of this regulation requires a partnership between the provincial Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and local governments to be successful;

AND WHEREAS the provincial Ministry of Environment appears to be lacking the dedicated resources to review the reports forwarded by Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEPs), which is necessary in order to ensure that the standards set under these regulations are adhered to:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial Ministry of Environment take immediate steps to provide the necessary staff resources to review the reports forwarded by QEP's so that the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation fully achieves its goal of protecting our fish habitat.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) is an important tool available under the Fish *Protection Act* to protect the riparian fish habitat component of watercourses.

Implementation of the RAR includes the 2008 intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the federal and provincial governments and UBCM. In addition to establishing roles, responsibilities and dispute-resolution mechanisms, the agreement indicates each party shall be responsible for its own direct costs.

The agreement allows for each partner to engage in cost-recovery mechanisms as necessary. Although not included directly in the RAR, these cost-recovery mechanisms enable local governments to approach developers and require them to cover habitat protection costs associated with their proposed activity.

An independently developed monitoring framework provides a strong statistical confidence level for reviews submitted under the RAR. When workloads prevent Ministry staff from monitoring, experienced Qualified Environment Professionals are hired on contract to complete the work. The Province continues to monitor results to update training courses provided by Vancouver Island University and develop regional workshops to improve assessment report preparation and overall implementation of the RAR program.

The Province stands by its responsibilities to protect important water resources and associated fish habitat, which we recognize contribute to community needs, a healthy environment and economic growth.

B74 EXTERIOR FULL CUT-OFF LIGHTING

WHEREAS full cut-off lighting reduces light pollution and glare;

AND WHEREAS light pollution may have a negative impact on quality of life, contribute to adverse health effects and pose potentially harmful consequences to the natural environment by disrupting ecosystems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Building and Safety Standards Branch of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing be requested to amend the BC Building Code to allow, facilitate and empower local governments to require exterior full cut-off light fixtures as part of their permitting and inspection process for all new construction and major renovations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The BC Building Code does not currently have an objective related to limiting light pollution and glare. As a result, the BC Building Code does not address the selection of light fixtures to be installed in or serving a building.

Regulation of light fixture selection is not within the current scope of the BC Building Code. Local governments may wish to consult with legal counsel regarding the creation of bylaws that are not restricted by the *Community Charter's* concurrent authority provision.

B75 TSUNAMI DEBRIS TO HIT WEST COAST IN 2014

WHEREAS it is reported that a giant mass of floating debris the size of California has been swept out into the ocean by the Japanese tsunami, and this debris could reach the shores of the West Coast by 2014;

AND WHEREAS coastal communities on the West Coast of Vancouver Island do not have the resources or capacity to deal with a clean-up of this magnitude:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that coastal communities that may be impacted by the tsunami debris from Japan be involved in any federal/provincial planning processes, including representation on the Provincial Tsunami Debris Working Group that has been developed by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments develop a funding strategy for removal of tsunami debris, to offset potential costs to local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Joint Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee, led by the BC Ministry of Environment Assistant Deputy Minister and Environment Canada Director General, has been pleased to welcome local government representatives, including Port Alberni CAO Russell Dyson, Joan Merrick, CAO of Skeena / Queen Charlotte, Karla Robson, District of Ucluelet, and George Harvey, CAO of Delta (as the UBCM representative), as members of the planning committee.

Despite early reports that pointed to 20-30 million tonnes of debris, recent research places the quantity of debris entering the ocean at approximately 1.5 million tonnes. By way of comparison, this is roughly half the amount of solid waste generated in Metro Vancouver in one year. That debris has been at sea for over a year and has been dispersed over a wide area. Subjected to the tides and winds, it is expected that the volume has been further reduced as more debris breaks up and sinks. What remains is expected to arrive along the coast of North America gradually over the next few years.

While some wind-blown tsunami debris has made its way to BC shores, it is too early to tell exactly where, when or how much of the bulk of the tsunami debris, driven by ocean currents, will land in BC. Any response to the debris needs to reflect this uncertainty and be scalable over time as our understanding grows. The province, in close cooperation with the federal government, local governments and other agencies is monitoring the debris situation and is prepared, in collaboration with other governments, to deal with human health or environmental issues arising from the debris.

No one agency or group has the sole responsibility or jurisdiction for responding to this challenge. It will require the resources and collaborative efforts of all, including Local Governments, to effectively manage any debris that washes ashore along BC's coast

and to ensure communities have accurate information. While the Province may consider assistance to local governments where the management of tsunami debris overwhelms local resources, this would be assessed on a case by case basis and is not deemed necessary at the present time.

Phase 1 of the Tsunami Debris Management Plan has been completed. Phase 2 is being developed in partnership with local governments and other partners and will provide scalable options for disposal of collected debris.

B76 BLUE CARBON CREDITS

WHEREAS local governments across British Columbia may prefer to have the opportunity to invest in local projects in order to reach their carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter;

AND WHEREAS blue carbon offsets, which are estuary restoration projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve estuary environments, may offer an excellent opportunity for local carbon neutral investments throughout the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial climate action secretariat to enable local governments to invest in blue carbon projects in their communities in order to meet their carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment, Climate Action Secretariat (CAS)

Signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter have made a voluntary commitment to be carbon neutral by 2012. The Province, in partnership with UBCM has provided resources and guidance material to local governments to assist them in achieving this goal.

From a carbon and environmental restoration perspective the concept of Blue Carbon is exciting. However, the steps to quantify carbon value need to include a standard way to measure growth and quantification (counting) of the carbon benefit. A robust research framework will therefore be required to develop a Blue Carbon-specific protocol. CAS has arranged for a meeting to discuss a made-in-BC approach to this new project type in conjunction with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. CAS will notify local and regional governments to ensure that they have an opportunity to take part in the meeting and/or benefit from its outcomes.

Until such time as a reliable, robust method to measure Blue Carbon is developed, CAS recommends that local governments follow the practice of reducing GHG emissions, purchasing offsets and undertaking research on projects in their community that have high GHG reduction potential. CAS supports local community investment in Blue Carbon research, but not at the expense of making progress on their carbon neutral commitment.

When an accepted approach to the measurement of Blue Carbon benefits is developed, CAS and local governments can add this to the evolving portfolio of policy options to assist in the creation of low carbon communities.

B77 PROTECTION OF POTABLE WATER

WHEREAS sources of potable water are increasingly being lost due to contamination and overuse;

AND WHEREAS water is vital to human life and must be protected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby both the provincial and federal governments to protect water aquifers and all bodies of potable water through the enactment of a national strategy that will ensure that Canadian water sources are protected and conserved so that all Canadians have access to clean water sources now and in the future.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes that water is vital to human life and ecosystem health. While source water protection is largely a provincial responsibility, water purveyors in British Columbia are responsible for the quality of potable water. Nationally, there are a number of resources available to jurisdictions that support source water protection. For example, through Health Canada, the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines are developed (for both ground and surface water sources). In 2003, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment also published From Source to Tap: Guidance on the Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water. Both resources are used in British Columbia. There are currently no plans to develop a national water strategy with respect to protection of source water.

The Province adopts the drinking water quality guidelines from Health Canada to guide decision-makers in protecting human health. The Province also adopts or develops water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life in source waters. In most instances, guidelines that protect aquatic life also protect human health.

British Columbia is also developing a new *Water Sustainability Act*. Under a new Act, both new groundwater regulation and a number of tools will be enabled that will also support source water protection. For example, Provincial Water Objectives will require that decision makers consider the impacts of individual activities on water quality (including drinking water). Where developed, Watershed Sustainability Plans will consider the impact of land-based activities on water and the watershed.

B78 REGULATION OF ABANDONED BOATS & DERELICT STRUCTURES ALONG PUBLIC WATERWAYS

WHEREAS abandoned boats, derelict structures and squatters in float homes and boats along public waterways can cause significant environmental damage, and pose a hazard to navigation and public health and safety;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory framework, with overlapping jurisdictions, makes it difficult and costly for municipalities to deal effectively with the problem:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be requested to implement regulatory changes that will provide municipal authority to enforce the removal of abandoned, derelict or hazardous structures along public waterways, and to enforce the eviction of illegal float home and house boat squatters.

REPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province shares many of the concerns expressed by coastal communities with respect to derelict and abandoned vessels in coastal waters. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) is actively exploring long-term solutions within available resources during a period of fiscal constraint. FLNR is participating in the development of a guidance paper to clarify roles and responsibilities for each organization with a mandate to address derelict vessels. The paper is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. The estimated time for completion of the review and posting of the paper on the FLNRO internet site is February 14, 2013. FLNR communicates regularly with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard and works with the federal agencies to find collaborative solutions for addressing concerns associated with derelict and abandoned vessels.

In 2011/12, FLNR worked with local governments and individuals wishing to accept responsibility for vessel cleanup by contributing some operational funding to cover partial equipment costs associated with the removal of vessels. Staff from regional-federal agencies are working with their counterparts in Ottawa to seek funding and to develop a permanent solution for the Pacific coast.

B79 ENABLING FISH ACCESS TO HISTORICAL SPAWNING GROUNDS AT BC HYDRO DAMS

WHEREAS the normal movement of fish in rivers and streams may be blocked by the location of hydroelectric dams contrary to Section 20-1 and 35-2 of the federal *Fisheries Act;*

AND WHEREAS this may restrict the rearing and spawning activity of certain species of fish:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to require that BC Hydro include some form of appropriate access of passage for fish to their historical spawning grounds including fish ladders or bypass canals, where possible, at existing dam sites.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The *Provincial Fish Protection Act* provides legislative authority for water managers to consider impacts on fish and fish habitat before approving new water licences or amendments to licences or issuing approvals for work in or near these streams.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has ultimate authority over fish habitat through the *Fisheries Act*, which is the main federal legislation affecting all fish, fish habitat and water quality. The provision of fish passage has been a component of Canada's *Fisheries Act* since 1867.

BC Hydro commissioned an Evaluation of Restoring Historic Passage for Anadromous Fish at BC Hydro Facilities (June 2001). Five dams: Coquitlam (1914), Alouette (1924), Ruskin (1930), Terzaghi (1948), and Wilsey (1929), now owned by BC Hydro, were found to have blocked the historic access of anadromous fish populations at the time of construction. Fish passage structures were not provided at these five dams according to individual agreements with the DFO, which waived their general requirement that all manmade obstructions in rivers were to be provided with a fish ladder. Three other dams: Comox (1912), Puntledge (1912) and Seton (1956), were built on anadromous-bearing rivers where the DFO insisted that fish ladders be provided.

BC Hydro has a seven step Fish Passage Decision Framework in place to screen and evaluate fish passage proposals. Funding to assess fish passage opportunities has been provided through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. For example, since 2008, $465,000 has been provided to assess fish passage opportunities on the Alouette River. Project impacts of a proposal to build a fish ladder as part of the planned upgrades to the Ruskin dam and powerhouse, did not rationalize that level of compensation. Further work would be needed to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed fish ladder infrastructure alternative to the present approach of

transporting sockeye salmon by truck from the bottom of the Alouette Dam up to the Alouette Lake Reservoir.

B81 DISPOSAL OF GYPSUM CONTAINING ASBESTOS

WHEREAS the presence of asbestos in gypsum products manufactured prior to 1984 poses a risk to health and safety;

AND WHEREAS gypsum wallboard and related products are commonly handled at local government facilities where the implementation of Asbestos Control Programs is significantly increasing costs and impacting the ability of local governments to provide appropriate disposal options for gypsum:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be urged to establish options to assist local governments to dispose of asbestos contaminated gypsum and/or include this as a product category in the BC Recycling Regulation to require a stewardship plan for this material as soon as possible.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes the challenges regional districts face with regard to asbestos contaminated gypsum at local government facilities within their jurisdictions, due to the additional WorkSafe BC requirements that must be in place to manage it.

In October 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) supported the Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR. The Canada-wide Action Plan (CAP) for EPR recommends programs be in place by 2017 for construction and demolition materials, as well as furniture, textiles and carpet, and appliances (including ozone-depleting substances).

BC's commitment to the Canada-wide Action Plan is reiterated in the Ministry's Service Plan, which states the intention to have comprehensive coverage of the products designated in the CAP by 2017/18. This will likely include construction and demolition waste such as gypsum wallboard.

B82 AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION FILL APPLICATION

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission ("the Commission") has jurisdiction on the placement of fill in lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve ("the Reserve"), including roads and berms;

AND WHEREAS the placement of fill can have potentially adverse impact on surrounding properties and the environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to amend the legislation governing the Commission to require that, as part of the application process for placement of fill on lands, including access roads and berms, a full analysis of the impact of this fill on surrounding lands be provided and if any adverse impacts are identified require they be addressed to the satisfaction of the Commission in consultation with senior and local government prior to approval being authorized.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)

The placement of fill on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is regulated under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) and regulation. Filling for non-farm purposes requires an application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). Certain prescribed land use activities within the ALR are allowed without an application and includes the placement of fill necessary for those activities. The placement of fill may be regulated by local government bylaws.

Where an application is made, the concern of the ALC is to assess whether the placement of fill is necessary for farm purposes in the short and long term and the impact of the filling activity, to ensure that the lands under application are not debilitated. The ALC also considers the potential for adverse impact on surrounding ALR lands. Local governments play a role by providing advice and recommendations to the ALC on each application.

Under BC Regulation 171/2002, land use activities such as land development works including berms and on-farm roads (and the placement of necessary fill), where required for farm use, may take place without application to the Commission. In these situations, the ALC encourages farmers to work closely with local governments and neighbours when planning and carrying out land development works to address concerns and mitigate potential impacts on surrounding lands. Local governments may regulate, but not prohibit, such farm use activities and are encouraged to work with the ALC to establish soil bylaws to help address concerns about the impacts of filling.

The ALC believes that a community or regionally coordinated approach to managing drainage and flooding risks in farm areas is a more appropriate strategy as opposed to ad hoc, farm by farm, projects that involve land development works and placement of fill. The ALC has indicated a willingness to participate in the development of proactive

regional solutions that will ultimately lessen potential adverse impacts and encourage farming of ALR lands.

B83 AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION POLICY NO. 11

WHEREAS Agricultural Land Commission Policy No. 11 deals with applications to subdivide land where the property under application has been the principal residence of the applicant as owner-occupant since December 21, 1972 and the applicant wishes to dispose of the parcel but retain a homesite on the land;

AND WHEREAS each year a reduced number of farmers qualify for a homesite severance under Policy No. 11, yet there remains a notable economic and social need for long term farmers to have the ability to obtain a home site severance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agricultural Land Commission be requested to amend Policy No. 11 to apply where a farmer has continuously owned and occupied a property as his or her principal place of residence for a period of 20 years.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Land Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission's (ALC) rationale for the policy was that pre-1972 landowner/farmers that were "caught" by restrictive zoning should warrant an opportunity to make an application for permission to remain on their land upon retirement. In contrast, it was the Commission's view that an individual who purchased Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land post-1972 did so "with eyes open" regarding ALR land. The 'option' to subdivide was not intended to be maintained in perpetuity.

The ALC has most recently reviewed this policy during the ALC Chair's review in 2010. The report resulting from the review entitled "Review of the ALC – Moving Forward: A Strategic Vision of the ALC for Future Generations" recommended to Government that the Homesite Severance Policy be retained as written based on the belief that retaining the policy would continue to support the retirement aspirations of landowners "caught" by the establishment of the ALR.

In Government's November 2011 response to the Chair's report, support was given to strengthen the ALC by allowing it to focus resources on encouraging farming through proactive planning and other efforts, including the maintenance of its policies that protect agricultural land.

The Homesite Severance Policy has been the subject of review on a number of previous occasions. The ALC has no intention to revisit this policy at this time.

B84 FENCING ADJACENT TO HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has established the Highways Fencing Program for ranchers to apply for funding to erect fencing along primary highways to reduce the risk of their livestock being on the highway; however, funding is not available for fencing of secondary highways or for maintenance of existing fencing;

AND WHEREAS many ranchers suffer economically and motorists are injured or killed when livestock enter onto highways, including secondary highways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to broaden the criteria for the Highways Fencing Program eligibility to include secondary highways and to provide funding for maintenance of existing fencing, which will increase the safety of the motoring public and will address the economic hardship that ranchers face when their cattle are killed on highways including secondary highways.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognizes the importance of livestock fencing and is committed to continuing to work with communities and livestock owners to ensure the safety of travellers and livestock.

The first phase of the provincial highway fencing program was completed between 2004 and 2007 with over 558km of new fence construction at a value of over $9.3 million. In 2009, the government announced the Provincial Livestock Fencing Project with an additional $10 million allocated for fencing improvements over a 6 year period. The ministry is working closely with the BC Cattlemens Association (BCCA) to implement this program.

The ministry can confirm that cattle fencing along both primary and secondary highways, as well as along major railway corridors, is eligible for funding under this project. In only the second year of the Project, applications have already been received for over 400km of secondary highway fencing. This is in addition to over 550km on major routes and 250km along railways. Over 93 km of fencing was constructed last year, and a similar amount has been tendered for this year.

When reviewing applications, the program considers factors such as traffic volumes, traffic speed, livestock numbers and fence condition which all contribute to an assessment of risk for both travellers and livestock. Based on these factors, candidate projects with the highest risk and most safety benefits are prioritized for funding. Projects are selected based on an assessment by the BCCA and the ministry.

While ongoing fence maintenance is the responsibility of the livestock owner, and there are no funds available within the fencing project to fund ongoing maintenance, local

ministry offices will, where funding permits, make fencing supplies available, such as fence wire and posts to aid ranchers in highway fence repair and upkeep.

B85 FIVE YEAR STRATEGY FOR BC NATURAL GAS USE

WHEREAS natural resources have the potential to be the foundation of British Columbia's economic health and long-term revenue predictability;

AND WHEREAS meaningful jobs for present and future BC citizens are multiplied by secondary and tertiary employment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly encourage the Province to develop strategies that will address the long term domestic supply, satisfy existing commitments, and provide incentives to build an infrastructure for ancillary enterprises that will support the natural gas sector in BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes the important role that natural resources, particularly natural gas resources, play in fuelling British Columbia's economy

The natural gas industry is an important revenue generator and source of job creation for the province. The Provincial Government publicly released its Natural Gas Strategy and complementary Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Strategy on February 3, 2012. The Natural Gas Strategy outlines actions that will: diversify markets for our natural gas; ensure there is a reliable, abundant supply; maintain competitiveness (including ensuring infrastructure is available to encourage investment); ensure environmentally responsible development; and build partnerships to promote development. The LNG Strategy more specifically commits to: ensuring LNG developers contribute capital for infrastructure; building on British Columbia's advantages to keep competitive in the global LNG market; maintaining British Columbia's leadership in climate change and clean energy; and, keeping energy rates affordable for families, communities and industry.

The Natural Gas Strategy and LNG Strategy directly respond to this UBCM Resolution by mapping out plans to ensure the province has a thriving natural gas industry that benefits all British Columbians and that environmental and social values are protected.

B86 THREE PHASE POWER

WHEREAS according to BC Hydro's Transmission Interconnection Process Guidelines, connection times for a business to connect to an adequate power supply can vary from 17 months to 4.5 years;

AND WHEREAS an inadequate power supply prohibits industrial growth;

AND WHEREAS the cost of the transmission connection can vary greatly from community to community thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government encourage BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission to institute policy changes designed to reduce connection times and to establish fair and equitable connection costs for all transmission customers.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

BC Hydro undertakes transmission upgrades based on demonstrated immediate or anticipated future demand. A series of technical studies are conducted to determine how best to meet the incremental load and the associated costs with doing so. BC Hydro files its project proposal with the British Columbia Utilities Commission to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to determine if the project is in the public interest. This is standard utility practice in North America.

Government recognizes that timely access to power influences economic development decisions. However, government must balance this with the need to mitigate rate impacts and assign limited capital dollars to the highest priority projects.

Government will undertake an Industrial Electricity Policy Review starting in January 2013. Local government and private sector stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this review and to offer their opinions on how the interconnection process can be streamlined so projects can enter service as quickly as possible.

B87 CANADA EUROPEAN UNION TRADE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS the Canadian government is close to concluding negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), with participation from the provinces and territories;

AND WHEREAS the EU is insisting on full access to procurement by local governments which could significantly reduce the ability of local governments to hire or source locally or use public spending as a tool for economic development, environmental protection and support for local farmers and small businesses;

AND WHEREAS government procurement rules combined with investment protections related to transit, water, electricity and other public services delivered locally may lock in privatization and make it prohibitively expensive to apply new regulations, to re-municipalize services, or create new municipal programs;

AND WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia already have open and fair procurement policies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the BC government:

- issue a clear, permanent exemption for BC local governments from the Canada-EU CETA, and that it otherwise protect the powers of local governments; and
- disclose what it is putting on the table regarding procurement, services and investment as part of CETA discussions, explain the impacts CETA would have on municipal governance, and give local governments the freedom to decide whether or not they will be bound by the agreement.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

The Province has conducted ongoing consultations with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) as the Canada–European Union negotiations proceed. Through these consultations, the Province has been made aware of UBCM's concerns regarding the potential application of the proposed agreement to local governments, especially in the areas of procurement, services and investment.

The Government of British Columbia has entered into a non-disclosure document with the federal government and cannot release nor discuss specific negotiating positions as this may jeopardize the outcome of the negotiations. The Province has consulted, and will continue to consult, with UBCM and explain the impacts of trade agreement obligations on municipalities. As the negotiations proceed, the Province will continue to bring forward UBCM's concerns to the federal government.

B88 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC & TRADE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS the Canadian government is conducting negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) that includes full access to local government procurement, which could significantly reduce the freedom of local governments to hire or source locally, or to use procurement policies as a tool for social and economic development, environmental protection and support for local farmers and small businesses;

AND WHEREAS the provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the provision of procurement legislation for local governments, school boards, universities, hospitals and other provincial agencies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal government, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the provinces and territories and other avenues, to enact strong domestic policy to preserve the right of local governments, school boards, universities, hospitals and other provincial agencies to use public procurement and investment as social tools to create jobs, protect the environment, stimulate local development, and support the social, economic, and environmental goals of their local communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

The Province has conducted ongoing consultations with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) as the Canada-European Union negotiations proceed. Through these consultations and discussions, the Province has been made aware of UBCM's concerns regarding the potential application of the proposed agreement to local governments, especially in the areas of public procurement and investment.

The Government of Canada states that a Canada-European Union trade agreement would not prevent governments from addressing the needs of their constituents and providing support to local businesses through grants, loans and fiscal incentives and selection criteria such as quality, price (including transportation costs and duties), technical requirements or relevant experience in competitive bids.

As the negotiations proceed, the Province will continue to bring forward UBCM's concerns to the federal government.

B89 DECLARED NUISANCES

WHEREAS there is no legislation in place that allows regional districts to take measures to address 'declared nuisances';

AND WHEREAS many residents have expressed grave concerns regarding impacts from odours that are produced from composting facilities in the Cowichan Valley Regional District:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to introduce legislation that would allow a regional district to take measures to address 'declared nuisances'.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province recognizes that regional districts are diverse, and can face unique challenges that may require customized solutions. To accommodate BC's regional diversity, the Province has, in the past, provided customized regulatory authorities to regional districts. For example, the Central Okanagan Regional District has the authority to regulate businesses, and the Regional District of Columbia-Shuswap has the authority to regulate fireworks and firecrackers. Under B.C. Reg. 23/2008 (Comox Valley Regional District Regulation), the Province has granted the Comox Valley Regional District the power to regulate declared nuisances.

Regional districts that face unique challenges are encouraged to contact the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to discuss approaches to address particular challenges.

B90 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN ELECTORAL AREAS

WHEREAS there are numerous and significant problems with drainage and stormwater management throughout the electoral areas;

AND WHEREAS the authority for managing stormwater and drainage in electoral areas is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as the development of legislation, policies and programs, and for providing resources to plan, construct and maintain drainage systems and enforce drainage standards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve their approach for the effective management of stormwater and drainage in electoral areas within the province of BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province recognizes that drainage and stormwater management is an important issue. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Ministry) is responsible for drainage and stormwater management in Electoral areas as they relate to provincial public roads and the subdivision approval process. Local government as well as individual property owners also play a significant role in this matter through the land use planning process and ongoing maintenance and support of the stormwater management systems.

The Ministry supports a cooperative approach to stormwater management planning, in collaboration with local governments.

In recognition of the Province's role, the Ministry is committed to ongoing discussions with local governments, particularly as it pertains to planned and future development, in an effort to minimize future drainage impacts. In areas where storm water management concerns have already been raised, the Ministry has been actively working with the local government on appropriate solutions.

B91 DOCTOR SHORTAGE IN BC

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of general practitioners and family physicians, particularly in small rural communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the shortage of general practitioners and family physicians in small rural communities eliminates the basic health care needs that every British Columbian has a right to;

AND WHEREAS there are Canadians studying abroad, well qualified doctors who would like to immigrate to Canada, and Canadians living in Canada who trained internationally before immigrating to Canada who would like to return to British Columbia to provide health care services but are facing obstacles in accessing and competing for postgraduate training positions in Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- the Government of British Columbia develop and implement a program similar to those programs in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario that allow for International Medical Graduate (IMG)physicians wishing to immigrate to Canada to be assessed in a clinical environment by qualified professionals to determine their level of competency in order to qualify to apply to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC for licensure;
- the Faculty of Medicine and UBC increase the number of IMG assessment and training positions available from 18 to 30 within the St. Paul's program (or similar) for those Canadian Imp's that require further training to qualify for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC;
- the Faculty of Medicine and UBC develop residency training positions for Canadians studying abroad who wish to return to Canada for postgraduate training;
- Imp's that are qualified to apply to the College of Physicians and Surgeons through any of these programs be accepted and placed in small rural BC communities most in need of physicians; and
- the provincial government develop an incentive program to pay the student loans of qualifying medical graduates including Imp's in exchange for time served in rural areas in need.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Representatives from the BC Ministry of Health, health authority medical staff, College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, and UBC Faculty of Medicine are working together to develop an assessment which confirms competency for entry to practice. A significant portion of the assessment will include a practice-based (clinical) assessment. Drawing best practices from programs in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as aligning with the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada's recommended approach; this work is expected to be ready for piloting in 2013.

Forty more first-year residency positions for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are being added over the next few years to the IMG-BC Program. By 2016, the Ministry expects to fund 58 first-year residency positions – 52 in family medicine, and 6 in general specialties. In 2012, 26 IMGs began postgraduate medical education at UBC Faculty of Medicine – 20 in family medicine, and 6 in general specialties.

The Ministry continues to look for ways to improve IMGs access to residency opportunities; however, measures that would privilege Canadians studying abroad over other IMGs risks violating the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

IMGs coming to work in BC under the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program have a work permit and are expected to provide medical services in an area of need, often a rural community.

IMGs who access postgraduate medical education in BC are expected to return service in a rural community, or a 'community of need', once they complete their medical education. Currently, 28 IMGs are returning service throughout BC - Fort Nelson, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Powell River, Bella Bella, Port Hardy, Parksville, Comox, Courtenay, Duncan, Qualicum Beach, Princeton, Penticton, Nakusp, Cranbrook, Nelson, Gibsons, Sechelt, Hope, Agassiz, Chase, and Vancouver's downtown east side.

The Ministry of Advanced Education has a student loan forgiveness program for health care professionals, including physicians. BC student loan debt is forgiven at a rate of $33^{1/3}$ per cent per year for each year the physician practices in an underserved community or designated vacancy at a publicly funded facility in BC. After three years, a physician's BC student loan is fully paid. While in the loan forgiveness program, any outstanding interest that accumulates is also paid.

For more information, please go to:
www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/repay/repayment-help/loan-forgiveness

On August 3, 2012, the federal government announced that eligible family physicians and nurses who work in rural communities will have a portion of their Canada Student Loan forgiven starting Spring 2013. news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?nid=689099

B92 SMOKE FREE OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES

WHEREAS the US Surgeon General, in a definitive report issued June 2006, concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, even in outdoor settings. Scientific evidence shows that, although varying from situation to situation, the fine particulate matter in second-hand tobacco smoke generally does not dissipate until 7.5 m from its source;

AND WHEREAS thirty (30) municipalities across BC have taken a leadership role in implementing smoke-free outdoor public places by-laws, unfortunately these by-laws contain a variety of different requirements and conditions which can cause confusion for the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the provincial government to consult with industry and implement legislation banning tobacco smoking in customer service patios of restaurants, in bars and pubs; in parks; on playgrounds, on beaches; at public events; and at least 7.5 m from each of these locations; and at least 7.5 m from doors, windows and air intakes of public buildings.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province of British Columbia is pleased to have strong support from local government for tobacco control initiatives. Local governments understand their communities' readiness for stronger standards and have in many instances already exceeded the baseline set by the *Tobacco Control Act*. Local governments have and will continue to promote healthy living.

Through the *Tobacco Control Act*, we are pleased to provide a baseline of protection across the province. Local governments understand their communities' readiness for stronger standards and have in many instances exceeded the baseline set by the *Tobacco Control Act*. We will continue to encourage municipalities to provide outdoor smoking bylaws that are a fit for their community.

B93 DECLINING HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS the medical services in small communities have been gradually eroding to a level that is dangerous to the public health and safety of our residents;

AND WHEREAS local governments have a legitimate concern about the public health and safety of their citizens;

AND WHEREAS local governments in small communities have neither the mandate nor the tools to rectify the situation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health take steps to ensure that the quality of medical services in small communities is returned to, and maintained, at a level that will ensure the public health and safety of our citizens is not at risk;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM support a moratorium on unilateral changes being made by a regional health authority to any health centre or hospital, so that negotiations can find a way to preserve these communities' access to 24/7 emergency services;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial Minister of Health initiate an audit of all health authorities to ensure delivery of medical services to remote and rural British Columbians complies with requirements of the *Canada Health Act*, all appropriate BC legislation and all contractual agreements between the BC government and the health authorities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

BC is striving towards self-sufficiency for physician supply in rural areas by increasing enrolment in the medical school and by distributing medical education to health regions. BC's approach is to attract the right students to train in the right places - including sites emphasizing rural medicine - so after completing medical education, more physicians will choose to practice in rural communities, similar to where they have trained.

Enrollment in medical school has increased from 128 first-year seats in 2002/03 to 288 first-year seats in 2011/12. Medical programs are now located in Vancouver/Fraser (UBC), Prince George (University of Northern BC), Victoria (University of Victoria), and Kelowna (UBC-Okanagan).

By 2020, BC expects to have more than 300 new physicians each year complete their medical education and be ready for independent practice. Today, more physicians are choosing to complete their medical education in family medicine and practice in rural communities.

In regard to emergency services, the ministry is working with health authorities to find solutions. BC has made $10 million available through the Rural Enhancement

Emergency Fund – providing up to $200,000 to communities to help them meet their challenges.

The recent master agreement with the BC Medical Association continues the work of the Committee on Rural Issues, which supports access to emergency departments and physicians who establish practices in rural and remote communities. The agreement sets aside $10 million to enhance the supply and stability of physicians in rural and remote communities, as well as access to emergency care.

B94 COLD WEATHER FUNDING

WHEREAS the Province has eliminated adequate funding for local cold weather shelters in many communities in the year 2011;

AND WHEREAS communities are experiencing difficult economic times while this type of protection is a provincial responsibility, we feel it is imperative that the less fortunate have a safe and warm area to retreat from the elements during extended cold periods:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government work with local groups who coordinate cold weather shelters and that the provincial government supply adequate funding for cold weather shelter funding in these communities from November to March each year;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding also be supplied for emergencies if temperatures drop below -10 degrees Celsius at any time during the year.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes that safe, warm shelter from cold weather is a significant concern in many communities.

The Province, through BC Housing, provides temporary spaces for homeless people during extreme cold and wet weather over the winter months between November 1 and March 31 under the Extreme Weather Response Program.

As of March 31, 2012 under the Extreme Weather Response Program, more than 1,300 spaces have been identified in 35 communities. Communities determine what conditions warrant an Extreme Weather alert, when to activate a location and how many spaces to make available on a given night, depending on the capacity of existing shelters and the estimated need.

In addition to the Extreme Weather Response Program, the Province, in partnership with local municipalities, funds the expanded Emergency Shelter Program, the Homeless Outreach Program, and the Homeless Emergency Action Team shelters in order to ensure vulnerable citizens are safely housed. These programs are delivered in 76 communities across the Province.

B95 ON-SITE PROVINCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS many of the perceived benefits of centralization have caused essential service providers such as the RCMP, health care and social services to locate specialized facilities and resources in medium to large centres as part of their strategic planning which has created an unacceptable travel overhead for rural communities and the delivery agencies;

AND WHEREAS these small rural communities are frequently the source of major provincial revenues from natural resource processing in mills and mines whose personnel and families require access to the government mandated services in proximity to their rural work locations, especially in the event of accidental calamities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to direct their agencies in their strategic planning to recognize the local needs of small rural communities by making qualified, live-in delivery personnel permanently funded and resident in our towns while also taking integrated cognizance of BC Transit needs, the lack of both of which are draining our communities of their lifeblood as evidenced by the results of the 2011 Census.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government

The Province recognizes the service needs of citizens in small rural communities and continues to support the commitments made at previous UBCM conventions regarding the provision of health and other essential services in rural communities.

The Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government provides a wide range of provincial government services through 60 Service BC Centres located across the Province. Almost all of these centres are located outside Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria.

In response to concerns about the centralization of services into larger centres to the detriment of smaller, rural communities, the Government of British Columbia is committed to maintain direct, in-person access to a full range of government services through the 60 Service BC Centres in rural communities across the Province.

B96 FUNDING FOR NORTHERN COLLEGES

WHEREAS colleges in northern and rural British Columbia provide "closer to home education" for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability;

AND WHEREAS colleges in northern and rural British Columbia are challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas;

AND WHEREAS a large percentage of students looking to these northern and rural colleges have not completed high school:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Government of British Columbia to develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the scattered population of rural and northern British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism

The Province recognizes the importance of quality post-secondary education to students, communities and employers in northern and rural British Columbia. Despite challenging economic conditions, the Province has maintained base operating grants to public colleges, universities and institutes, including higher average funding per FTE for northern and rural institutions compared to institutions in the South.

In 2012/13, the Province will provide over $129 million in annual operating grants to the six colleges located in the North Island, Northeast, Nechacko, North Coast, Cariboo, and Kootenay regions of the Province. In 2011/12, these institutions collectively provided instruction to over 10,000 full-time equivalent students. The resulting average Provincial operating grant per full-time student attending northern and rural institutions was over $10,000.

In comparison, the Province will provide over $383 million in annual operating funding to the five colleges located in the South Island, Lower Mainland, and Okanagan regions in 2012/13. In 2011/12, these institutions instructed over 34,000 full-time equivalent students with an average operating grant of about $8,500 per student.

Key provincial fiscal plan objectives are protection of essential health care, education, and social services and achievement of a balanced Provincial budget by 2013/14. Meeting these objectives requires maximizing resources and administrative efficiencies, including those within the post-secondary sector. Currently, post secondary partnerships and collaborations among institutions are an integral component of institutions' capacity to develop and deliver new programs and opportunities for students.

B98 AMENDMENTS TO THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCY ACT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has enacted legislation through the *Residential Tenancy Act* (*RTA*) to protect tenants from unacceptable living conditions;

AND WHEREAS Part 5 of the *RTA* outlines a process for resolving disputes that provides the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) with authority to make any order necessary to give effect to the rights, obligations, and prohibitions under the *RTA*, but in order to enforce an RTB order, it must be filed in the Court and enforced as a judgment or an order of the Court;

AND WHEREAS tenants who wish to enforce their rights under the *RTA* must navigate a complex bureaucratic and legal process and be prepared to spend significant amounts of time and money to engage with the process, creating barriers for tenants to access the *RTA*, especially tenants with low incomes or other vulnerabilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of the residential tenancy dispute resolutions process by amending the *RTA* such that the RTB enforces their dispute resolution decisions or orders, and does so within a reasonable timeframe.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes that most landlords and tenants fulfill their responsibilities and do not require dispute resolution services.

The *Residential Treasury Act* establishes a dispute resolution process for the four percent of tenancies where a neutral, independent decision-maker is required. This quasi-judicial process responds to 20,000 complaints a year, a caseload larger than that of Small Claims Court.

Like all civil actions, the landlord-tenant dispute resolution process relies on compliance with the law and with decisions and orders issued through the hearing process. When voluntary compliance is not achieved, it is enforced through a separate court action.

The Province has no plans to change the enforcement process. Residential Treasury Board continues to improve the provision of information and services to landlords and tenants to make the dispute resolution process more accessible and effective for all parties.

B99 PUBLIC LAKESHORE ACCESS

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provides for lake access points within subdivision plans;

AND WHEREAS these access points allow for emergency aquatic egress for communities identified in emergency plans as well as recreation and enjoyment of the Province's lakeshores and fisheries in an increasingly developed shoreline environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure survey and provide signs identifying public access points to the Province's lakes and rivers to confirm the public's right to access the foreshore for recreation and emergency egress via boat.

REPSONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry recognizes the importance of public access to lakes and rivers. As specified in the *Land Title Act*, Ministry staff ensure continued access through the review and administration of the rural subdivision process. The location of these access-to-water rights of way are surveyed and dedicated at the time of subdivision and retained and managed for both current and future uses.

Access-to-water may be dedicated for a variety of purposes, including public access, drainage and livestock access. All accesses are deemed public highway rights of way and are available for public use to the extent that access is safe and practical based on terrain. It is important to note that many of these rights of ways are unconstructed and not maintained and, in some cases, they may not be suitable for safe public access.

The Ministry can confirm that all accesses to water are surveyed at the time of dedication through the subdivision process as per the *Land Title Act*.

Where these rights of way provide suitable access, ministry staff are happy to work with local governments to ensure that they are adequately signed to confirm public access.

B100 ACCESSIBLE BALLOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS all Canadians have the right to vote and to do so independently and consistently at all levels of government elections;

AND WHEREAS the accessible ballot (tactile template and Braille ballot) provides the means for voters who are blind or visually impaired to independently participate in the election while retaining their democratic right to confidentiality within the election process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to introduce legislation ensuring that accessible ballots for voters who are blind or visually impaired are available at polling places in every election.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Local governments have the ability to print ballots in Braille when they are conducting a vote for a general local election, a by-election or a referendum. Should a local government choose not to print ballots in Braille, a person who has difficulty reading or writing can vote if they are assisted by an election official or by a person accompanying the elector. The person accompanying the elector must make a solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the ballot of the elector being assisted.

It may not be practical or feasible for all local governments to print ballots in Braille as local governments vary greatly in size and available resources. Also, in very small communities where there may only be one person who votes by using a ballot in Braille, it increases the risk that the secrecy of the ballot is not preserved when the ballot is counted with scrutineers and candidates present.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

For provincial elections, accessible ballots are currently available for blind or visually impaired voters. Elections BC, which is the independent office of the Legislature that administers provincial elections, currently uses a tactile template to assist visually impaired voters. These tactile templates are available at all polling places for every election or by-election.

B102 COMMUNITY WATER SERVICING

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Spallumcheen is a community located largely in the Agricultural Land Reserve, where many properties benefit from having secondary dwellings and where it is unreasonable to require property owners to provide for a community water system to accommodate a second residence;

AND WHEREAS the provision for requiring a community water system will have a direct negative impact on the Township's rural community and other rural communities deeming the legislation unreasonable in these cases:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government, under the Ministry of Health, reconsider the *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Drinking Water Protection Regulation to allow the legislation to change to permit one (1) well to service two (2) residences on one (1) parcel of land without establishing a community water system in areas where there is no existing community water system to ensure that rural communities are not negatively impacted by requiring a community water system to provide a water source for a secondary residence provided that the well meets water quantity and quality requirements.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Health Protection Branch, Ministry of Health (Ministry), has heard similar concerns from health authorities, other local governments and the public regarding the *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Regulation. In response to this, the Ministry presented a discussion paper at the 2012 UBCM convention, outlining proposed amendments to the Drinking Water Protection Regulation. These proposed amendments would allow more than one residence on a single property to be considered a single family dwelling for the purposes of the interpretation of the regulation. This would ensure that in such situations, a water supply, which serves only this property, would not be required to be a permitted drinking water system under the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. This discussion paper was distributed at UBCM and to other interested stakeholders in the summer of 2012 and feedback to the proposal was requested.

B103 ASSESSING COMMUNITIES FOR PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

WHEREAS the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, through the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement, classifies each rural BC Community on an isolation-based point system to determine incentive levels for physicians;

AND WHEREAS the classification system for the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement does not value demographic and subpopulation factors when ranking rural communities, particularly those with a significant proportion of at-risk subpopulations or a demographic indicative of a heightened need for physicians to support aging in place:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urges the Government of British Columbia, through its involvement with the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues, to revise the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement's point system for classifying rural BC communities so as to value demographic and subpopulation factors.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Community Point Rating System is negotiated between the British Columbia Medical Association and the Province, as part of the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement and has been in place since January 2003.

The Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement has recently been re-negotiated, effective April 1, 2012. The Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues reviews the rural programs on an on-going basis and will consider this resolution in their future discussions regarding the point system.

B104 OFFICE OF THE SENIORS ADVOCATE

WHEREAS the BC Ombudsperson released "The Best of Care: Getting it Right for Seniors (Part 2)" with 176 recommendations to improve home and community care, home support, assisted living and residential care services for seniors;

AND WHEREAS the Province released "Improving Care for BC Seniors: An Action Plan" in response, including the commitment to establish an Office of the Seniors Advocate;

AND WHEREAS the Province conducted public consultations in June and July 2012 to help shape the role and functions of this office:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the provincial government ensure that the Office of the Seniors Advocate will, to sufficiently address the BC Ombudsperson's recommendations:

- be an independent officer of the legislature and fully resourced;
- focus on home and community care, as well as health promotion services;
- provide proactive, systemic advocacy;
- ensure that effective procedures are in place regarding seniors' care facility complaints, inspections and reporting;
- be accessible and responsive to BC's diverse and growing seniors' population; and
- support local and provincial seniors' organizations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Establishing an Office of the Seniors' Advocate is a key commitment in "Improving Care for BC Seniors: An Action Plan" (Action Plan), released February 2012.

From May to July 2012, the Ministry of Health held province-wide consultations with seniors, families and stakeholders on the role and function of the future Office of the Seniors' Advocate.

Altogether, 22 public and stakeholder meetings were held in nine communities, including sessions in a residential care facility and a retirement community. More than 500 participants took part in the consultation process. Summaries of the sessions are posted on the SeniorsBC website at gov.bc.ca/seniors advocate. In addition to consultation input, the Ministry received 117 written submissions by mail and email and 12 electronic survey responses.

The wide variety of ideas and comments received from the public and stakeholders through the consultation process will help government to shape the future role of the Seniors' Advocate.

B105 REINSTATEMENT OF FARM FUNDING FOR DEER FENCING

WHEREAS the excessive deer population has a detrimental impact on an already economically challenged farming industry and poses a serious deer management problem;

AND WHEREAS the Province previously allocated funding for farmers through the Environmental Farm Plan for perimeter fencing, but has since withdrawn this avenue of funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to reinstate funding to farms for perimeter deer fencing as part of the Environmental Farm Plan.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

The Province recognizes that the deer population can have an impact on farming industries and that prevention and mitigation measures are an important management approach.

The Ministry of Agriculture works with provincial agencies, the sector and other interests to find ways to enable healthy wildlife populations to co-exist with agriculture, in a manner that does not significantly impact agriculture operations. The Ministry is working on policy approaches to encourage prevention and mitigation measures (fencing is one example), as well as compensation, that respect the interests and realities at the local level.

In response to calls for reinstating funding to farms for perimeter deer fencing as part of the Environmental Farm Plan, the Province advises that it is currently reviewing ways to broadly address wildlife impacts to agriculture.

As part of the upcoming negotiations with the Federal Government on the next five year federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 funding agreement (starting April 2013), the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to identify opportunities for programming to address wildlife impacts to agriculture.

The Province remains committed in working towards a balanced and integrated solution that sustains both farmers and wildlife populations.

B106 FENCING OF AGRICULTURAL INTERFACE

WHEREAS in British Columbia, there are residential developments that are currently in existence that abut livestock range areas, resulting in livestock entering onto residential properties;

AND WHEREAS the Crown collects fees for grazing leases, but does not provide fenced, defined range boundaries to contain the livestock:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to assume the responsibility of fencing the existing agricultural/residential interface to protect ranchers from economic hardship through loss of livestock, and residents from damage caused by livestock entering onto their property.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province recognizes that livestock are authorized to graze adjacent to many communities throughout BC and that effective barriers do not always exist between residential and range agreement areas.

The *Livestock Act* is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. This Act encourages landowners who live in livestock districts to fence their property, should they want to prevent access by livestock authorized to graze under the *Range Act*. Private land in BC is substantially smaller in area than Crown land and is unevenly distributed throughout the Province. As such, fencing out all agricultural/residential interfaces would require thousands of kilometers of infrastructure and a significant budget for installation and maintenance.

The Province works towards an integrated solution that is operationally sound and builds on the achievements made by government staff, the public and industry. For example, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is reinforcing *Land Title Act* provisions for developers to fence rural subdivision properties when they border Crown land with authorized livestock grazing. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations encourages the livestock owners to include provisions within their operational plans to mitigate livestock movement into towns and cities. There are also many examples where multiple partners have coordinated efforts to install and maintain infrastructure in problematic areas.

B108 INNOVATE BC'S NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has expressed an interest in a "Made in BC Approach" to utilizing the natural gas reserves in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has expressed a desire to create a diversified natural gas industry with its attendant jobs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to effect a plan within one year to create a comprehensive infrastructure to supply natural gas to commercial transport for British Columbia, with a target date for implementation within five years.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes that comprehensive infrastructure to supply natural gas to the transportation sector in British Columbia is critical to diversifying and increasing demand for natural gas.

There are currently two programs that support increased use of natural gas in transportation. Since December 2011, the Province's Clean Energy Vehicle Program has been providing point-of-sale incentives for new, light-duty natural gas vehicles. In May 2012, the Province announced the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Clean Energy) Regulation that allows utilities to offer incentives for natural gas vehicles and build natural gas fuelling stations.

In response to the Regulation, FortisBC has launched a five-year natural gas vehicle program that provides incentives for new, medium and heavy-duty natural gas vehicles, and is planning for investments in natural gas fuelling infrastructure. The FortisBC program is heavily over-subscribed. In addition, a number of private sector natural gas supply and fuelling infrastructure companies have expressed interest and plans to develop natural gas infrastructure throughout British Columbia.

The Province will continue to monitor the market to identify if and when further action is required.

B109 INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE PLANNING GUIDELINES

WHEREAS the forest industry in British Columbia does not consider landscape level planning for the removal of timber nor do they consult with each other during the planning for removal;

AND WHEREAS lack of consolidated landscape planning by the forest industry results in fires moving across the landscape unheeded and is impacting the future of forest based communities and the mid-term timber supply opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) create Integrated Landscape Planning Guidelines and that all companies harvesting timber in BC consider future wildfire impacts while planning for harvesting;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MFLNRO make changes to the Forest and Range Practices Act to require landscape planning.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations

One of the key elements in the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations' (Ministry) recently released Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan (October 2012) is fuel management and fire management planning, including a recommendation to link fuel management programs to Type 4 silviculture strategies.

As stated in the Action Plan, the Ministry has recently initiated landscape fire management planning. The objective is to mitigate the threat of wildfire by creating landscape-level fuel breaks to reduce risks to critical values. Three pilot projects are currently underway in the Cascades Resource District, Vanderhoof / Fort St. James Districts, and Sea to Sky / Chilliwack Resource Districts. The successful integration of wildfire considerations into most aspects of resource management planning will require a focused commitment by industry, communities, local governments, First Nations and resource management agencies.

The Ministry's fire management specialists are also working with the Type 4 silviculture strategy team leads in the Burns Lake and Okanagan-Shuswap Districts. Fire management planning is recognized as a planning component and the specialists will share their knowledge, expertise and information on wildfire risk mapping. The ministry is also considering options for including fire management objectives in all resource management activities.

In 2004, the Provincial and Federal Governments committed $37 million to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and the BC Government contributed an additional $25 million in April 2011. The initiative is a collaboration between UBCM, the First Nations Emergency Services Society and the Ministry. This initiative reduces wildland-urban interface fuels on municipal lands and First Nation lands next to communities.

B110 FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS family violence is recognized as a serious problem in Canada, where:

- 6% of Canadians with a current or former spouse report being physically or sexually victimized by their spouse in the previous 5 years;
- Nearly 55,000 children and youth were the victims of a sexual offence or physical assault in 2009, about 3 in 10 of which were perpetrated by a family member;
- In 2009, police reported over 2,400 senior victims (65 years and older) of violent crime by a family member, representing about one-third of all violent incidents committed against older adults; and
- Between 2000 and 2009, there were 738 spousal homicides, representing 16% of all solved homicides and nearly half (47%) of all family-related homicides;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia has no specific legislation designed to complement and enhance the protections in the *Criminal Code* which prevent and protect victims of family and relationship violence, while six other provinces (Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan) and three territories (Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut) have enhanced protection to victims of family and relationship violence by proclaiming specific family and relationship violence prevention legislation as a tool to reduce the cycle of family and relationship violence and ensuring all justice system workers (e.g. police, crown prosecutors, judges and workers within the social services) are trained adequately and appropriately in its administration:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to enact specific legislation that would offer extended protection to victims of family and relationship violence beyond that which is provided for in the *Criminal Code* and to ensure that all justice system workers receive adequate and appropriate training in its administration.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Province of British Columbia (Province) has shown leadership and steadfast commitment to creating a more effective response to family violence, including the development and implementation of domestic violence legislation to help effectively prevent and combat family violence.

The new *Family Law Act*, which comes into force on March 18, 2013, provides a new protection order regime. This new regime is similar to the stand-alone family violence prevention legislation in other provinces and territories. It offers extended protection to victims of family and relationship violence beyond which is provided for in the *Criminal Code* and can be used as a tool to reduce the cycle of family and relationship violence. As well, the Province is working with justice system participants, police and victim

services workers, to ensure they receive adequate training and understand the new regime.

In addition, the Province is committed to a number of other initiatives aimed at addressing family violence, including the establishment of the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence. An action plan prepared by the Office was recently released and outlines a domestic violence training plan for those in the justice and other sectors.

The changes to the *Family Law Act* and the ongoing work of the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence address many of the issues behind the resolution and put British Columbia at the vanguard of legislative reform in addressing this important issue.

B112 STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVE FUNDING

WHEREAS the Provincial Fuel Management Working Group has changed the funding formula for fuel management programs to disallow the leveraging of UBCM Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program Initiative dollars by using accrued grant totals (spent money) from the federal and provincial governments or accrued in-kind contributions from local government;

AND WHEREAS local governments are very hard pressed to find new local tax money to fund their share of operation fuel management projects:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work to change the funding formula and restore the ability of local governments to use recently expended funds and in-kind contributions to leverage new Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program Initiative dollars.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

It is important to complete community wildfire projects to reduce wildfire risks to communities. All communities are encouraged to continue participating with available UBCM funding from the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI).

The objective of the UBCM/Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations fuels management program is to treat identified high-risk urban interface areas in a cost-effective treatment program that meets the objectives for the project.

The Provincial Fuel Management Working Group is currently reviewing the 2011-12 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and will consider initiative adjustments, including reviewing funding ratios. If approved, initiative adjustments would be implemented in the 2013 program.

B113 FULL FUNDING FOR FUEL ABATEMENT

WHEREAS certain Crown forest lands located in regional district electoral areas and adjacent to municipal boundaries present a significant risk to communities from catastrophic wildfire events which may inundate communities with volatile ember showers;

AND WHEREAS management of these forest lands, including forest fuel loading, is ultimately the responsibility of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and that said Ministry has fully funded fuel abatement measures in the past but no longer does so:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations be called upon to reinstate its former policy of providing full funding for fuel abatement on Crown forest lands located in regional district electoral areas and adjacent to municipal boundaries.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

To address wildfire risks on Crown lands, the Ministry has recently initiated landscape fire management planning. The objective of landscape fire management planning is to mitigate the threat of wildfire by creating landscape-level fuel breaks to reduce risks to critical values.

The Wildfire Management Branch will be collaborating with regional stewardship staff, industry, First Nations and communities to identify the highest wildfire risks in their area and prioritize actions, prevent future threats and evolve landscape to a more fire resilient state. The Ministry will complete modeling of wildlife risk for all areas across British Columbia within two years. These models will be used to help set priorities for action and support future operational planning that will mitigate negative impacts from large scale intense wildfire activity.

The Provincial Fuel Management Working Group is currently reviewing the 2011-12 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and will consider initiative adjustments, including reviewing funding ratios. If approved, initiative adjustments would be implemented in the 2013 program.

B114 FUNDING FOREST FUEL MITIGATION

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia continues to experience wildfires due to ineffective fire suppression activities, drying weather trends and mountain pine beetle infestations on Crown, public and private lands;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia government:

- commissioned the "Firestorm 2003 Report" (Filmon Report) to provide recommendations to prevent future wildfire events; and
- provides limited funding for local governments to implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans on Crown and public lands;

however, does not provide funding for or require fuel mitigation works to be conducted on private lands leaving such regulation to individual local governments to establish, enforce and assume the liability associated with those programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to enact provincial standards to ensure a province-wide comprehensive wildfire protection and works program is established, funded, executed and enforced for both private and public lands beginning with those lands at highest risk and immediately adjacent to residential areas.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations fully supports wildfire risk mitigation on private lands, and to that end, the Wildfire Management Branch has been working with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Thompson Okanagan Interface Steering Committee, to implement the Fire Smart Canada program as means to support community and landowner participation in wildfire risk mitigation on private lands.

Fire Smart activities on private lands are best fulfilled at the local government level as a majority of these lands fall under the mandate of local authority. Local governments understand the risk and are best positioned to identify which areas need to be managed within the context of their broader Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Mitigating wildfire risk is everyone's responsibility and the Province is fulfilling its role for fuel management on public and municipal lands, by providing $62 million in funding since 2004 for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative to complete fuel management activities with local governments.

B115 PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

WHEREAS public transportation and commercial passenger vehicles are critical components of a network for the efficient movement of people, but commercial operators of passenger directed vehicles in rural communities face unique challenges in terms of developing and sustaining economically viable operations due to inconsistent ridership demand, which can result in reduced levels of service available to the public;

AND WHEREAS the integration of a service to incorporate passenger directed vehicles with traditional public transportation may create synergies and increase the viability for these operations, improving the access to and availability of passenger directed vehicles in rural communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC develop a transportation strategy to critically assess and determine solutions towards the sustainability of passenger directed vehicle operations including both public transit and taxis in rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

BC Transit provides services in over 140 communities across the Province, serving 80 percent of the population. Transit service in rural BC has been very successful, offering services to small communities which, elsewhere in Canada, would generally not have public transit. While the Ministry recognizes the importance of public transportation, local issues relating to public transit and taxis in rural communities are better addressed by local governments and service providers. As such, BC Transit has agreements in place with 58 local government partners for the delivery of transit services, cost shared between BC Transit at 46.96 percent and local government at 53.31 percent.

Communities wishing to establish transit service can discuss preliminary options with BC Transit, or request a formal feasibility study. If communities have a demand for taxi or other commercial passenger transportation services, a service provider can apply to the Registrar of Passenger Transportation (http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/rpt/index.htm) for a license to deliver those services.

B118 WATER STEWARDSHIP

WHEREAS water is our most important resource and should be managed prudently;

AND WHEREAS there is increased activity in the oil and gas industry in north-eastern BC that is utilizing this vital resource for its hydraulic fracturing operations where alternative solutions need to be explored and implemented such as the use of effluent water:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC to encourage oil and gas industries to enter into partnership agreements with either local or regional governments to construct effluent water facilities rather than utilizing aquifers for hydraulic fracturing purposes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes that oil and gas industry water use for hydraulic fracturing operations is a significant concern in north-eastern British Columbia communities. Managing water equitably for economic development and domestic and environmental purposes is a priority of the Province.

The Province applauds the unique waste water management project agreement that was reached with the community of Dawson Creek and would support future such agreements where practical. However, the great majority of oil and gas activities do not occur in proximity to communities where effluent water facilities are a practical solution.

To effectively manage water quality and sustainability, the Province is developing a northeast British Columbia Shale Gas Hydraulic Fracturing Water Strategy, with planned completion by mid 2013.

B119 COMMERCIALIZATION OF WATER

WHEREAS the extraction of water for commercial bottling purposes is objectionable;

AND WHEREAS commercial water extraction applications have been approved by the Province despite the opposition of surrounding local governments and First Nations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be requested to respect and defer to local government and First Nations recommendations on commercial water license application referrals.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) has a responsibility to consider all applications under the *Land Act* and *Water Act* for the use of Crown resources, including water bottling. Through its review process, FLNR consults with local government, First Nations and the public. Decisions are aimed at finding a balance of environmental, economic and social interests.

The use of Crown land is subject to the authority vested in local governments by the *Local Government Act* and Community *Charter*. Through the zoning process, local governments are able to influence land use in the context of local values.

The Province is committed to working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations through its referral and consultation processes.

B120 CONTAMINATED SOIL RELOCATION

WHEREAS the deposition of relocated contaminated soils poses a risk to drinking water and habitat when deposited above aquifers or adjacent water courses;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have the legislative authority to regulate where contaminated soils may be deposited:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia enact legislation and develop appropriate enforcement tools to ensure that relocated contaminated soils pose no risk to aquifers or water courses and that local governments be provided a formal opportunity to comment on applications to relocate contaminated soils to and within their jurisdiction.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

Soil relocation agreements were instituted to provide province-wide consistency on the movement and deposit of soil originating from contaminated sites and to support the sustainable reuse of soils at suitable deposit location, instead of these soils taking up valuable landfill capacity. The standards used to assess these soil relocation agreements are conservative and are intended to prevent contamination at deposit sites. They take into consideration the protection of groundwater and surface water resources. The Ministry of Environment is currently reviewing the existing provisions to ensure they continue to be protective and appropriate and we will be consulting further as we progress.

The Ministry requires soil relocation to meet provincial remediation standards at the receiving site location. The existing regulatory framework governing soil relocation under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) and Contaminated Sites Regulation (CSR) is designed and implemented to ensure protection of both human and environmental health, including protection of drinking water and ecosystems.

Local governments are the primary authority regulating land use in British Columbia. When specific reference is made to contaminated soils, local government and the Province have concurrent authority. Soil that is legally authorized for relocation under EMA/CSR, and does not require risk management at the receiving site, would not be considered contaminated.

The Ministry of Environment intends to continue its present dialogue with local governments, such as the Cowichan Valley Regional District, regarding opportunities for improvement of the provincial soil relocation authorization process, including consideration of options related to consultation and notification.

B121 2012 CARBON NEUTRAL GOALS

WHEREAS numerous BC local governments have committed to be Carbon Neutral by 2012 by signing the Climate Action Charter;

AND WHEREAS there are limited provincial financial assistance programs and loan arrangements to help local governments, especially small BC communities, to reach their carbon neutrality goals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to develop more financial assistance programs and loan arrangements to assist local governments, especially small BC communities, in achieving 2012 Climate Action Charter commitments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment, Climate Action Secretariat

The Province recognizes the leadership commitment made by BC local governments by signing onto the *BC Climate Action Charter* and recognizes the challenges and opportunities that exist in meeting these commitments.

The joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee (GCC) was created under the *Climate Action Charter* to assist local governments in achieving their commitments The GCC works with local governments to provide tools and to develop guidance and materials to assist signatories in making progress on their commitments.

In addition to GCC support the Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), a conditional grant program, provides funding to *Climate Action Charter* signatories equivalent to 100 percent of the carbon taxes they pay directly. This funding supports local governments in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move forward on achieving their Charter goals.

B122 SHIPPING OF DANGEROUS GOODS LIABILITIES

WHEREAS the amount of ocean traffic is increasing along the West Coast of British Columbia due to increased economic activity, which increases the risk of accidents and spills, particularly from ships carrying dangerous and/or toxic products;

AND WHEREAS current environmental measures are not able to adequately clean up damages caused by these types of large scale spills or disasters, and continual cuts are being made that undermine the ability of our Coast Guard to address such disasters in a timely and adequate manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to create legislation that requires that liability for cargo on a ship be the responsibility of both the carrier and the one who sold the cargo until such time as the cargo reaches its final destination, and/or is outside of Canadian waters;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to create legislation that requires shippers of dangerous goods and cargo, as well as the manufacturers, be required to pay into an emergency fund designed for three purposes:

1. to clean up, and compensate for any and all damages, including capital devaluation, social, cultural, and ecological damage, caused by an accident involving said goods and cargo;
2. to fund research into improving clean-up methods to deal with the eventuality of such spills; and
3. to fund a sustained increase in provincial spill prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response resources;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM petition the federal government to restore the Coast Guard complement and safety measures along our coast to a standard that protects our coastline from the dangers of such accidents, and mitigates the amount of damage that would occur from the result of any such incidents.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes that resource development that involves the movement of goods along our coast brings an element of risk to the environment from spills. In response to the increase in pipeline proposals, BC has established five requirements for support for any for proposal for the shipment of "heavy oil" including:

- World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for BC's coastline and ocean to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines and shipments

- World-leading practices for land-based oil spill prevention, response and recovery systems to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines;

Recognizing that marine spill response is the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, BC is committed to working with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard to strengthen marine spill requirements and capacity on the west coast.

The Ministry of Environment is also currently reviewing options for an industry funded model to support increased capacity for planning, spill response and restoration of land impacted by spills.

B123 REGULATING THE SALE OF UNSTERILIZED RABBITS

WHEREAS many municipalities are facing the problem of rabbit abandonment and proliferation in city parks and public areas;

AND WHEREAS feral rabbits can cause significant property damage, and pose a hazard to public health and safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to implement legislation to regulate the sale of unsterilized rabbits.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Under the *Community Charter* s. 8(3)(k), municipalities have the authority to adopt bylaws to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to animals, subject to any provincial regulations. B.C. Regulation 144/2004 "Community Charter Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction - Environment and Wildlife Regulation" identifies rabbits as "alien invasive species". Therefore, municipalities are authorized to control and eradicate those alien invasive species, except in cases where the species is part of a farm operation as defined under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*

Additionally, *Community Charter* s. 8(6) authorizes municipalities to regulate in relation to businesses. In relation to a bylaw banning the sale of puppies and dogs from pet stores, the British Columbia Supreme Court in International Bio Research v. Richmond (City), 2011 BCSC 471 found that this authority could be used to prohibit such sales provided there is a valid municipal purpose for doing so and the bylaw is not unreasonable or otherwise impermissibly discriminatory.

Given the potential scope of municipal regulatory authority, the Provincial Government does not intend to pursue legislation to regulate the sale of unsterilized rabbits at this time.

B124 WILDLIFE TRAPPING

WHEREAS local governments do not have the authority to regulate trapping;

AND WHEREAS the use of body and leg hold traps within urban areas pose an unacceptable risk for injuries to humans and pets;

AND WHEREAS the sale of traps to individuals not licensed as trappers is not restricted:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations be encouraged to prohibit the sale of wildlife traps to individuals without a trapping permit or license;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations be encouraged to develop and promote educational programs on alternatives to trapping wildlife and the importance of signage, particularly within urban areas in order to protect humans and pets from unnecessary injury.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations

The Province recognizes that trapping within urban areas in British Columbia is a growing concern amongst residents and municipal governments.

The Province regulates trapping activities in order to maintain healthy wildlife populations, protect public safety and ensure the humane treatment of animals. Provincial regulations address these issues while providing opportunities for the sustainable use of wildlife, as well as for the control of wildlife populations where necessary. Public safety is of paramount importance and the Province believes that current trapping regulations do protect members of the public.

The Conservation Officer Service and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation are currently developing a draft educational program called WildSafeBC. This program is an expansion of the highly successful Bear Aware program. The program will assist in reducing human-wildlife conflicts and will help communities address their growing problems with deer, coyotes, cougars and other wildlife.

The British Columbia Trapper Association and the Fur Institute of Canada are currently developing an urban wildlife operator training program that would train and certify licensed trappers interested in expanding their knowledge of safe and humane urban trapping methods. The Province intends to assess the efficacy of this program in the near future.

The Province will explore the possibility of restricting the sale of wildlife traps to licensed trappers, the use of signage in urban trapping situations and will work with municipal governments on emerging urban trapping issues.

B125 BC STEWARDSHIP REGULATIONS RELATING TO PACKAGING & PRINTED PAPER

WHEREAS recycling rates for residential homes in Metro Vancouver is approximately 45%;

AND WHEREAS in Metro Vancouver, the local government blue box curbside service is the most established and successful aspect of the waste stream in terms of diversion;

AND WHEREAS recyclable materials represent a potential revenue stream for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS public priorities to drive zero waste should focus on diverting more waste from multi-family dwellings, and the commercial and industrial sectors;

AND WHEREAS the Province has amended the Recycling Regulation to include extended producer responsibility for paper and packaging by 2014;

AND WHEREAS local governments have the most knowledge about the recycling system in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the new stewardship program does not require local government blue box curbside service and could impact publicly controlled residential collection of paper and packaging:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province amend the Recycling Regulation so that the stewardship organization fully fund residential recycling programs through local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Province recognizes the immense success and maturity of curbside blue box programs in many of British Columbia's (BC) municipalities. The Province expects that the amendment to include Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) in the Recycling Regulation (Regulation) will not only enhance curbside recycling programs to cover more materials, but also expand these programs into new geographical locations of BC.

A key objective of packaging product stewardship is to provide the producers (e.g., manufacturers, retailers) with a financial incentive to make and sell products that contain less packaging. Despite the longstanding presence of blue box programs, waste composition studies for the Province show that PPP still accounts for anywhere from 20 to 30 percent of waste disposal in landfills. The increasing volume and complexity of packaging in the waste stream has proven difficult and costly for local governments to manage, yet they have no influence over the design and composition of the material introduced into the marketplace. The Province responded to the numerous

resolutions passed by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and its members requesting provincial action to establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for PPP.

The Regulation is designed to provide producers with maximum flexibility to achieve the environmental objectives set by the Province. One of these objectives is meeting a 75 percent recovery rate (specified in section 5(1)(a)(i) of the Regulation), which was chosen as a minimum performance target for all product categories, with the expectation that producers will continually improve performance. Thus, the Province expects to see a significant increase in recycling rates across BC from current levels.

Producers of PPP had to consult on and submit a product stewardship plan to the Province by November 19, 2012 and will implement this plan by May 19, 2014. The Province expects that all communities will receive some level of collection service, and as a general principle, if the community currently has curbside collection it will likely continue to receive it. The level of collection service is an important consultation issue for local governments and the Ministry encourages you to participate in the current consultation process taking place on the draft stewardship plan.

The definition of packaging and printed paper encompasses all PPP generated in the Province, regardless of sector. Currently the Regulation mandates the point of collection of the product to be from residential premises and municipal property that is not institutional, commercial and industrial (ICI) property. The Province expects ICI facilities to show leadership and strive to collect and recycle as much packaging as possible from their facilities. The Province intends to regulate collection from ICI property in the future. In the interim, municipalities may enact bylaws that ban packaging disposal that comes from ICI facilities and/or require all ICI licensed facilities to recycle packaging.

The Province realizes that the PPP category is different from other previously regulated product categories when it comes to the consultation needs of stakeholders, particularly local governments, and thereby acknowledges them as a key stakeholder in the development of a product stewardship plan for PPP. As such, the Province has made a more concerted effort in engaging local governments in the process. The UBCM PPP Working Group was formed to represent local government concerns so that their interests and existing expertise are acknowledged and utilized. The Province has made it a key priority to keep up-to-date on local government perspective with regards to the PPP stewardship program and will continue to communicate through UBCM PPP Working Group and with individual local governments as requested.

B126 GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FREE ZONES

WHEREAS the BC Fruit Growers Association has asked the Okanagan Valley Regional Districts to investigate the establishment of a Genetically Engineered (GE) Free Zone for tree fruit products, fruit and plant material in our respective regional districts;

AND WHEREAS orchard after neighbouring orchard of tree fruits can potentially be contaminated with GE DNA constructs by the activities of pollinating insects like honeybees and the transport of honeybees from one orchard to another by the beekeepers;

AND WHEREAS the Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative, where over 80% of the commercial tree fruit crop in British Columbia is received, packed, stored, graded and shipped, will deny any GE fruit or fruit containing GE DNA constructs;

AND WHEREAS 100% of the organic tree fruit orchards in BC that are found to contain GE fruit or fruit containing GE DNA constructs would lose their organic certification:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the British Columbia government to legislate the prohibition of importing, exporting, and the domestic production of fruit and plant material containing GE DNA constructs and to declare through legislation that BC is a GE Free province in respect to all tree fruit products;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM forward this motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for similar consideration for legislation by the federal government to establish the country of Canada to be GE Free in respect to all tree fruit products.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

The Province recognizes that production of Genetically Engineered (GE) fruit trees and their products, including tree fruit and pollen, raises human and environmental health concerns in export markets. These concerns can negatively impact access to those export and some domestic markets for both conventional and organic products.

Currently, Health Canada has no objection to only one GE fruit, papaya. If the Federal Government were to allow unconfined production of GE trees and other fruits in Canada, the fruit production and sales could be significantly impacted.

The Province will explore the complex GE fruit issue and the UBCM resolution to request legislation to prohibit the BC production, importation and export of GE fruit trees and their products. Upon completion of this review, the Province will provide UBCM with its findings.

B128 TAX COLLECTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* are restrictive in allowing methods for municipalities to collect property taxes;

AND WHEREAS small communities that depend on tax collection for budgeting needs are often forced into a borrowing position when residents fail to pay property taxes by the due date;

AND WHEREAS local government legislation allows for taxes to lapse for two years before enacting any authority to collect on taxes;

AND WHEREAS collecting on taxes through a tax sale does not allow municipalities to work with a balanced budget, nor redeem the amount of taxes owed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to revise its legislation to allow for collection of property taxes in a timely manner to satisfy budgetary requirements and circumvent a municipality's need to borrow money to cover delinquent and arrears taxes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Late payment of some taxes is a normal part of municipal operations and should be anticipated as part of good financial management. Tax sale is one of the last steps in dealing with non-payment of taxes and should be viewed as an authority of last resort.

The authority to appropriate and confiscate property is one of the most extensive powers that local governments possess. Thus, this power must be used judiciously and in a fair and transparent manner.

The current tax collection system in British Columbia must balance the need for timely municipal revenue with a prudent restriction on confiscating property. Provincial legislation attempts to achieve this balance by setting penalties and interest on taxes at a sufficiently high rate to encourage timely payment, but also providing property owners sufficient time and opportunity to pay their taxes before their property goes to tax sale. Also note that the penalty and interest on late payment of taxes is additional municipal revenue that partially compensates for delayed tax payment.

B130 VACANT & DERELICT BUILDING TAX RATE

WHEREAS run-down and poorly maintained buildings, vacant or occupied, have a negative impact on area residents and businesses, which results in decreased property values and discourages investment in the municipality, and affects local government property tax revenues;

AND WHEREAS the municipal authority under the *Community Charter* is limited as follows:

- section 8(3)(1) applies to building only for the purposes of health, safety and protection of persons and property; and
- section 64(k) is limited to graffiti and unsightly conditions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Community Charter* to grant local government authority to set higher property tax rates for derelict and vacant buildings as a deterrent for property owners to allow their premises to become unsightly.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Municipalities have broad authority under the *Community Charter* to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to a range of matters. Section 8(3)(l) provides the fundamental power to create bylaws for the protection and enhancement of the well-being of the community in relation to various nuisances, disturbances and objectionable situations described in section 64.

Based on the authority to deal with nuisances and related issues, many municipalities have enacted unsightly premises bylaws and/or property maintenance bylaws to address conditions that negatively impact community enjoyment and neighbourhood property values. Provisions that establish objective indicators to clarify the meaning of "unsightly" are often included in such bylaws, helping target undesirable aesthetic conditions of properties beyond matters like graffiti. Under section 74 of the *Community Charter*, a council can also declare a building or structure, or a thing so dilapidated or unclean that it offends the community, to be a nuisance and impose remedial action requirements.

Additionally, local governments can use tools such as the revitalization tax exemption provisions found in section 226 of the *Community Charter,* to encourage development and improved maintenance of run down or poorly maintained buildings.

B132 SMALL COMMUNITY GRANT

WHEREAS the provincial government supplies a small community grant that is not equitably allocated to small communities, nor has a guaranteed amount to be distributed annually;

AND WHEREAS local governments depend on this funding, and the provincial government should recognize that a "one size fits all" approach will not work in addressing allocation amounts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to make changes to its formula for small community grant allocation to take into consideration industrial tax base, tax rate, first nations population, existing funding, revenue sources available to the community, taxation limitations imposed through supplementary letters patent and municipal annual operating budgets.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The variables for the Small Community Grant Program (SCG) include population and per capita assessment. Statistics such as population and assessments are indicative of a local government's ability to generate revenue. These two variables were also chosen for their stability, transparency, accuracy, and predictability, so as to provide a reliable income source for local governments. The Ministry routinely publishes data with respect to population and assessments. This allows municipalities and the general public to replicate the calculation.

The goal of the Province and the SCG funding formula is to distribute funds in an equitable and transparent manner, using a formula that is not static but is responsive to local factors such as changing populations and assessments. Inserting additional variables, such as operating budgets or tax rates, whose predictability, transparency, and accuracy may vary, introduces unnecessary layers of complexity to the formula. The universal application of the variables greatly simplifies the administration of the SCG. Any changes to the formula require extensive consultations with all local governments affected and UBCM.

The Province restructured key local government transfers, including the SCGs, to provide the Strategic Community Investment Funds (SCI). The SCI Funds will temporarily replace the annual payments of SCGs for three years. The signed SCI agreement specifies amounts to be paid by the Province to local governments over the lifespan of the SCI Funds program providing certainty for local governments for this period.

B139 RURAL TOURISM ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS the extraordinarily high property assessments for rural tourism resorts have made these businesses economically unfeasible, and numerous rural resorts have been forced to close their tourism operations as a result;

AND WHEREAS in 1996, the Province of British Columbia recognized this problem and introduced the Tourist Accommodation (Assessment Relief) Act to provide an exemption of up to $150,000 of assessed value in order to provide some relief for owners of tourism accommodation; however, that exemption limit has remained unchanged over the fifteen years since the introduction of the Act despite increasing assessments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to implement the following legislative changes for rural British Columbia tourism operators:

- increase the maximum eligible reduction in assessed property values under the Tourist
  Accommodation (Assessment Relief) Act from $150,000 to $500,000 for rural operators;
- raise the threshold for the reducing formula from $2,000,000 to $4,000,000; and
- introduce formulae to increase the maximum eligible reduction in assessed property values and raise the threshold for applying the reducing formula in proportion to average assessment valuation increases for accommodations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

The Province recognizes that high property assessments for rural tourism resorts have resulted in a tax burden for these businesses.

In response to calls for Provincial Government assistance with this issue, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training will work with the Ministry of Finance, the BC Assessment Authority and the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to look at options to amend the *Tourist Accommodation (Assessment Relief) Act* with the UBCM's recommendations, and to support this sector.

B143 MARKET RENTAL HOUSING STOCK

WHEREAS market rental housing provides an important housing supply for low to moderate income earners;

AND WHEREAS on average, only 675 purpose-built rental units are built in Metro Vancouver each year;

AND WHEREAS the region's existing rental stock is aging and at risk for redevelopment;

AND WHEREAS there is a significant economic impairment to developing market rental housing compared to strata condo development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide incentives for the retention of existing and development of new market rental housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province recognizes that rental housing for low to moderate income households is a significant concern in Metro Vancouver.

In 2011/12, the Provincial Government, through the British Columbia Housing Management Commission, invested over $240 million to provide subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 56,900 households in Metro Vancouver. This included support to more than 28,600 senior households and over 17,900 family households. The Community Partnership Initiative also provides low interest financing opportunities for housing providers to build affordable market housing targeted to working low to moderate income households.

The Province will continue to build upon progress since Housing Matters BC was first introduced and continue to focus on enhancing the supply of affordable housing, including rental housing.

The Province will continue to work with local organizations to provide a variety of housing options for British Columbians.

B145 BUILDING REGULATIONS – NON-POTABLE WATER

WHEREAS it is deemed in the public interest to provide effective regulations for the use of reclaimed or non-potable water sources in plumbing systems;

AND WHEREAS the Building and Safety Standards Branch of the Office of Housing and Construction Standards of the Ministry of Energy and Mines is currently considering the inclusion of regulations for non-potable sources of water to be included in the 2012 BC Building Regulations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Building Code amendments be provided that will limit the liability to local governments associated with ensuring the minimum water quality standards are met for non-potable water and provide consistent guidance to achieving that goal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulations ensure processes are created that are not unduly onerous on the local government and homeowner and that the procedural application of permitting and approval is no more difficult than that for the potable water system.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

The 2012 British Columbia Building Code (BCBC) includes provisions for the design of non-potable water systems. These provisions determine the minimum acceptable standards for non-potable water systems in British Columbia. Provisions existed within the 2006 edition. Changes in the 2012 BCBC provide for greater clarity and are not intended to place increased liability or inspection requirements on local governments.

A good deal of information has already been published in Canada to provide appropriate guidance. The 2012 BCBC makes reference to these. Property owners are required to design non-potable water systems in consultation with good engineering practice, the Canadian Guidelines for Domestic Reclaimed Water for Use in Toilet and Urinal Flushing and regulations made under the *Environmental Management Act*.

B147 PROVINCIAL REMEDIATION PROCESS FOR INAPPROPRIATELY USED BUILDINGS

WHEREAS it is not possible for any prospective property purchaser or tenant to be certain if a building they are considering for purchase or lease has been remediated through a process that would ensure health and safety risks have been eradicated;

AND WHEREAS the inappropriate use of buildings for agriculture activity (e.g. grow-ops) and the production of synthetic drugs can result in the significant damage to the properties and if inadequately remediated, this type of damage can have serious health and safety implications for occupants:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the remediation processes for inappropriately used buildings shall be a centralized, consistent process for remediation and the Government of British Columbia shall play the controlling role, using existing BC provincial legislation as the foundation for this approach.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and Minister Responsible for Housing

Local governments have the authority to issue and revoke occupancy permits, to set standards of maintenance and to inspect remediation work.

The National Collaborating Center for Environmental Health has published Guidelines for Safe Re-Occupation of Grow Operations and Clandestine Amphetamine-Derived Drug Laboratory Cleanup Guidelines. This guide can help local governments regulate the health and safety of buildings in their communities. They may choose to issue building permits for the required repairs and inspect the completed work.

Where possible, the Minister Responsible for Housing would certainly support local governments in their efforts and other parties to develop recommended guidelines and best practices.

B148 WORKPLACE SAFETY AWARENESS

WHEREAS workplace fatalities continue to occur in British Columbia, but are often not brought to the attention of the public;

AND WHEREAS each death that occurs in the workplace is tragic and deserves to be properly acknowledged and mourned;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be encouraged to implement measures designed to increase awareness of workplace safety (for example, such measures could include the requirement for a province-wide news release whenever a worker is killed on the job, or the installation of a permanent plaque to honour the victim(s) at the site of workplace fatalities).

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour (Ministry), which is responsible for WorkSafeBC and the *Workers Compensation Act,* takes the safety of all workers in British Columbia most seriously. The Ministry continues to support and maintain an effective statutory framework on workplace safety.

The Ministry is advised that WorkSafeBC publishes a description of each work-related death every year in the agency's annual statistics book.

WorkSafeBC worked with the BC Federation of Labour and Business Council of BC years ago to establish a provincial Workers' Memorial at Hastings Park in Vancouver. This memorial honours the memory of workers lost in a workplace injury, motor vehicle incident or from an occupational disease.

WorkSafeBC hosts the Day of Mourning each year to remember deceased and seriously injured workers. The Minister Responsible for Labour often attends ceremonies to recognize this important day.

WorkSafeBC continues to work hard to raise awareness about workplace injury and death. The agency proactively publishes investigations where there are lessons to be learned and responds to media when a workplace incident occurs.

B154 SHARK FIN HARVESTING

WHEREAS shark fin harvesting is an inhumane and wasteful practice serving a very narrow and sometimes criminal marketplace;

AND WHEREAS shark fin harvesting, by taking large and increasing numbers of an "apex" species whose reduction in the ocean eco-system has significant impacts upon other species:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to implement a province-wide ban on the possession, sale, and distribution of shark fin;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government ban the import of shark fin into Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

The Province recognizes that there is some public concern with the harvesting and the practice of finning large pelagic sharks and is supportive of the federal ban on the practice of finning in domestic waters, which has been in place since 1994.

The Province is not currently contemplating a province-wide ban on the possession, sale and distribution of shark fin, however; Local governments are free to explore a bylaw to enact bans within their respective municipal jurisdictions, as some UBCM member municipalities have already chosen to do.

B156 SIGNAGE & SAFE PULL-OUTS FOR HIGHWAY AREAS WITH CELL PHONE COVERAGE

WHEREAS much of today's travelling public is dependent on the technology of cell phone service to not only stay in touch with family members but for added safety features for emergency reasons;

AND WHEREAS many areas within cell phone coverage in rural BC are not identified:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that proper signage and safe pull-outs be installed in areas throughout BC where coverage is available, identifying these areas as having cell phone connectivity.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

While cellular coverage is expected and exists in populated areas and along much of the highway network, there are remote rural areas where travelers may not know if cellular coverage is available.

Cellular phone coverage in rural areas provides an important service to communities and to travelers. This is highlighted by the government's Connecting British Columbia agreement in which Telus has committed to providing wireless coverage to more than 1,700 km of primary and secondary highways.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Ministry) has advised the cell providers that existing highway pullouts and rest areas are priority locations for expanded cell coverage. Rest areas are in place in many areas around the Province and not only provide a safe area to pull off the highway, but also provide services for motorists, such as restrooms and area information.

Given the continued expansion of cell coverage across the Province, it would not be economical to construct new highway pull outs in the fringe coverage areas, which would quickly become redundant.

The Ministry will, however, give consideration to placing signs in advance of existing rest areas and pullouts in a remote rural area that have cell coverage to inform travelers that coverage is available.

SR1 SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH FIRST NATIONS & REGULATORY GAP

WHEREAS local governments seek to build strong relationships with First Nations and support their economic development aspirations;

AND WHEREAS local governments have in good faith developed service agreements with First Nations to facilitate economic development on reserve lands, despite the fact that:

- reserve lands are exclusively federal lands and jurisdiction, outside of local government regulatory and taxation authority, and yet reserve lands are included within local government boundaries;
- there is an inability for local governments to regulate utility services on reserve lands; and
- without effective regulatory tools, local governments are exposed to financial, environmental and public health liability if a problem arises with a local government service provided to reserve lands:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments work with UBCM and First Nations to close the regulatory gap that presently exists regarding the establishment of service agreements between local governments and First Nations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments, in collaboration with UBCM and First Nations, provide local governments with effective legislative tools to protect themselves and reduce their exposure to financial, environmental and public health liability.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Respectful relationships between local governments and First Nations are the necessary foundation in order to effectively plan and work together on matters of mutual interest, including the negotiation of contractual arrangements, such as service agreements.

The Province acknowledges the complex infrastructure and accountability interests that were raised by local governments in the context of development on Indian Reserve lands and understands the concerns around planning, provision of services and maintenance of these projects.

While there are challenges in determining which laws may apply to Indian Reserve lands, particularly as the courts continue to consider these matters, there are examples where provincial legislation and municipal bylaws have been held to be valid and enforceable on reserve.

The provincial government, through the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, in consultation with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and

Reconciliation, is monitoring the topics of service provision, taxation and regulation and enforcement.

The Province continues to be willing to work with local governments to discuss specific challenges they may face recognizing that, at the core of these issues, is the value of establishing strong and cooperative working relationships with First Nations.

OF1 HIGHWAY OF TEARS SHUTTLE BUS PROPOSAL

WHEREAS a number of young women, mostly aboriginal, have been murdered or have gone missing along a stretch of Highway 16 in northern British Columbia now referred to as the "Highway of Tears";

AND WHEREAS many of these missing women are believed to have been hitch hiking between communities where there is a lack of public transit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the British Columbia government to implement the recommendation of the Highway of Tears Symposium by establishing and funding a shuttle bus service between northern communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Ministry) is aware of the importance of safe and reliable bus service, particularly between communities along Highway 16. At present, Greyhound Canada provides daily scheduled bus passenger service on Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert. Greyhound Canada has applied to the Passenger Transportation Board to reduce the frequency of service, but has indicated that it will continue to provide daily service along Highway 16.

Northern communities have clearly communicated their desire for safe transportation options and Ministry staff are prepared to work with communities to investigate viable options to make travel between communities safer and to discourage the practice of hitchhiking along the highway.

LR1 CALL ANSWER LEVY FOR WIRELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS almost one half of all emergency calls to 9-1-1 are now made from cellular telephones;

AND WHEREAS wireless service providers are not required to collect a call answer levy that would contribute to the cost of providing the 9-1-1 service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to enact legislation similar to that enacted in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan that would require all telephone service providers, including wireless service providers, to collect a call answer levy as a means to contribute to the costs associated with the delivery of 9-1-1 emergency service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice will follow-up with municipalities and corporations, such as TELUS and Bell, to establish a UBCM working group to consider issues related to emergency services and wireless phones.

Considerations of the working group will include:

- Improvements to public safety, such as enhanced capabilities, additional training and meet future public demands.
- Province-wide options and, if possible, harmonize with other jurisdictions.
- Consensus by industry and municipal leadership.

LR2 INVASIVE SPECIES – QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSELS

WHEREAS an aquatic vessel originating from Arizona and identified as carrying Quagga mussels was launched in Shuswap Lake in July 2012 resulting in an emergency response by the Ministry of Environment to determine if live mussels had been introduced into Shuswap Lake and to implement quarantine and decontamination measures;

AND WHEREAS Quagga and Zebra mussels are a non-native invasive species that pose a serious threat to British Columbia's natural aquatic ecosystems and can produce significant negative impacts to the economy;

AND WHEREAS Quagga and Zebra mussel populations have invaded regions in Ontario and fourteen US states and are threatening neighbouring jurisdictions with new introductions with the primary vector for new colonies of Quagga and Zebra mussels being their transport on or within boats crossing from infested to non-infested waters;

AND WHEREAS Quagga and Zebra mussels act as prodigious water filterers, removing substantial amounts of phytoplankton and suspended particulate from the water ultimately resulting in a proliferation of aquatic plants that can change species dominance, alter the entire lake ecosystem and adversely affect infrastructure such as water intakes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC take immediate measures to protect the lakes of British Columbia from introduction of Quagga and Zebra mussels through mandatory inspections of vessels being transported from Quagga or Zebra mussel infested waters.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province recognizes the serious threat posed by invasive Quagga and Zebra mussels.

In response to this and other aquatic invasive species threats, government has reviewed and proposed amendments to the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the *Wildlife Act*. The amendments will prohibit the possession, transport or breeding of listed species, which includes Quagga and Zebra mussels and enable conservation officers and other law enforcement staff to stop, inspect and impound mussel fouled boats. UBCM has been informed of this pending regulation change and confirmed its support in early November 2012.

The Province is also working with the federal government to have Quagga and Zebra mussels added to the Federal Aquatic Species Regulation. This will prohibit the importation of live mussels into Canada and enable the Canada Border Services Agency to stop mussel fouled boats from entering the country.

Quagga and Zebra mussels are currently not found in British Columbia or the Pacific Northwest states. The Province is a partner in cross-border initiatives and alert networks that have been established to prevent the introduction of these mussels from infested waters. The Province is working to strengthen provincial communication and response strategies.

LR3 SMALL WATER SYSTEMS TREATMENT

WHEREAS the provincial government released in April 2012 the Guidance Document for Determining Ground Water at Risk of Containing Pathogens (GARP) including Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI);

AND WHEREAS local governments did not review these documents prior to their release, and have not provided input into or feedback on these documents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM oppose the Guidance Document for Determining Ground Water at Risk of Containing Pathogens including Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The UBCM resolution opposing the "Guidance Document for Determining Ground Water at Risk of Containing Pathogens (GARP) Including Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI)" is premature at this stage given that its implications for establishing ground water treatment requirements have yet to be considered by UBCM.

The Guidance Document was developed to assist water operators and health authorities to determine whether a ground water drinking water supply is at risk of containing microorganisms that cause disease in human populations. This technical assessment tool was originally developed in 2009 and has been reviewed by regional Ministry of Environment hydrogeologists, academics, the multi-stakeholder Ground Water Advisory Board, selected consultants, and the Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Leadership Council. Over the past few years, earlier versions of the document were posted online on the Ministry of Environment's website and the BC Water and Waste Association's website.

The Guidance Document assessment tool supports a Drinking Water Officer's decision making, on whether a ground water supply needs to be disinfected under Section 5 of the provisions of the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. Without this guidance, the default standards of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water issued by Health Canada apply. The BC guidance is different from the national approach because it takes into account site- and source-specific conditions in a community, thereby allowing for more flexible options for the delivery of safe drinking water from ground water sources.

The Guidance Document assessment tool is intended to link with another provincial guidance document currently under development. This second document will recommend ground water treatment objectives for the categories of risk identified by the assessment tool. The treatment objectives are currently under review by subject matter experts and practitioners and are expected to be released for stakeholder review and comment by the spring of 2013.

Given that the ground water treatment objectives document is under development and the "Guidance Document for Determining Ground Water at Risk of Containing Pathogens Including Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water" assessment tool are linked, the Ministry of Health had proposed to consult on both documents at the same time. With both documents in hand, UBCM members can better judge how the two part guidance works to support the determination of ground water treatment requirements. The Ministry of Health is fully prepared to consider UBCM feedback at that time to improve future versions of both documents with regard to their relevance and usability.

LR6 REQUIREMENTS FOR BY-ELECTION

WHEREAS from time to time wholesale vacancies are caused at the local government level, be it at the municipal, regional district or school district levels, through ministerial intervention as has occurred at the Cowichan Valley School District #79;

AND WHEREAS s. 37 of the Local Government Act and s. 36 of the School Act make provision for by-elections to be conducted as soon as reasonably possible after the vacancies occur and in accordance with the statutory requirements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to issue a ministerial order for elections to be conducted in a local government where vacancies are caused by ministerial intervention so that the democratic rights of the citizens of the affected political jurisdiction are properly protected and served and the business of the local government may be appropriately exercised through its duly elected representatives.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

The Minister of Education will be requesting that Cabinet order an election to be held in the Cowichan Valley School District in November 2013. This approach will provide stability for the district throughout the current school year, but also supports an opportunity for Cowichan electors to elect a board, a year in advance of the next local government elections